



# Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

**LWN**

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Thursday, August 6th 2015



MAGNIFICENT SEVEN: Nicky Sweetland raves about Seven Brides For Seven Brothers at Regent's Park Open Theatre. REVIEW, SEE PAGE 21

● STATION SCHEME OPPONENTS TURN ON COUNCIL

## Crossrail protest over 'propaganda'

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THE No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, which already has the support of 3,000 local residents and business owners, has accused Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council of issuing "taxpayer-funded propaganda" over the proposed Crossrail 2 station on the King's Road.

But the council has hit back at the stinging attack with a detailed Q&A – which the London Weekly News features on Page 3 today – which it has conducted with Transport for London, which argues that a Crossrail station in Chelsea would not be as big, as busy or as disruptive as campaigners fear.

TV stars Felicity Kendal, Trevor Eve, Cherie Lunghi and Loyd Grossman, who all live in the village, have come out fighting – saying Crossrail will "destroy Chelsea" and attacking the "squandering" of £1 billion on the scheme.

The co-chairman of the campaign, Chris Lenon, has attacked what he calls "mistruths that have been pedalled by the council" regarding the proposed station at the current Chelsea Fire Station site.

### EXCLUSIVE

By Geoff Baker

Mr Lenon said: "3,000 local people have already expressed their dissatisfaction at a council that is not listening to their concerns, and now even using taxpayers' money to try and discredit the rightful views and concerns of its very own electorate."

"Last month, Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council wrote to residents outlining their case for a Crossrail 2 station on the King's Road. The council spent more than £5,600 printing and posting 36,000 copies of this letter to Chelsea's households, a letter that contained multiple mistruths."

■ On the matter of how many extra people will come onto the King's Road when the proposed station opens, Mr Lenon said: "The council tells local residents not to believe the 'false claim' that 72,000 people an hour will be spilling into the King's Road. No such claim has been made."

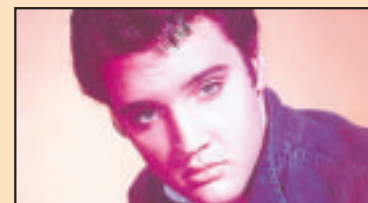
"We have said, correctly, that a station in Chelsea will result in up to 72,000 people an

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

### INSIDE THE CITY'S FREE WEEKLY

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## VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVE REACHES TARGET NINE MONTHS EARLY

# Go Team London! 100,000 sign up

**T**HE Mayor's Team London volunteering programme has smashed its target to reach 100,000 volunteers nine months ahead of schedule.

Across the capital, Londoners of all ages are now lending a hand in their local communities as a result of signing up to Team London, which the Mayor Boris Johnson set up to ensure a volunteering legacy following the London 2012 Games.

More than 43,000 adults and 58,900 young people have signed up to volunteer through a range of programmes that includes Team London Ambassadors, 600 of whom are currently to be seen at key locations around the capital providing a warm welcome to the millions of tourists who flock to London. This weekend, Team London volunteers will be out and about at the Ride London cycling festival, one of a number of major events they volunteer at throughout the year. One thousand schools have also signed up to the Team London Young Ambassadors' programme, which encourages children to get involved in social action – it is anticipated young Londoners will have given 285,834 hours of their time for the year 2014-2015 alone.



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE

The Mayor said: "I am thrilled that Team London has beaten our target nine months early to meet this marvellous milestone of 100,000 active volunteers.

"It shows Londoners' passion for helping others and contributing to their local communities is stronger than ever. Team London offers a fantastic variety of opportunities that will appeal to many different people, regardless of how much time they can commit, from sprucing up

green spaces, to working with young people or getting involved with major events. I hope many more Londoners will be inspired to sign up to an initiative that brilliantly enshrines why London is the best big city in the world."

Team London has developed a number of programmes to help young people develop valuable skills and increase their future employability. This includes HeadStart London, through which 16-18 year olds earn their way to a guaranteed job interview through volunteering and businesses volunteer to support them build their employability skills. Tottenham 639 also aims to increase employability through volunteering for local projects.

Veronica Wadley, the Mayor's senior advisor for volunteering, commented: "As part of the volunteering legacy of the Games we wanted to create the next generation of volunteers. I am delighted that nearly 60,000 of these volunteers are young people who are not only connecting with their community but building their skills through their social action projects which will support them on their pathway to employment. The overwhelming support we have had from London's business sector to recognise the importance of volunteering has been a real motivator for our young people. I hope even more schools and more organisations will sign up to join the Team London movement."

Other activities include the Pocket Parks and

Capital Clean-up programmes, while the new Speed Volunteering platform has been set up to make it easier for people who do not have much time to volunteer.

Team London also supports 1,400 organisations across all London boroughs to promote local opportunities and provides small grants to up to 20 organisations a year. The Mayor visited Wide Horizons Centre in Shooters Hill last week to see first-hand how it used a small innovation grant in 2014 to transform a once derelict site into an important green space, with trees, birds, pathways, pond and other attractions and activities for young Londoners.

More than 700 volunteers, including schoolchildren, cleared and transformed the woodland, which is now used to deliver adventure learning activities and the centre is already making an impact, working with local schools, colleges and community groups.

Alex Brooks-Johnson, chief executive at Wide Horizons, said: "The volunteer programme has enabled us to transform a five-acre designated nature area, which was overgrown and had been subjected to repeated fly-tipping, into a well-managed woodland centre."



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# Action group war of words

FROM PAGE 1

hour passing through the King's Road station, given that the trains will carry 1,500 passengers and there will be 48 trains an hour."

In fact, the campaigners DID make the claim in their original flier – which stated: "Trains could bring up to 72,000 people per hour into the King's Road, swamping narrow pavements."

■ On the matter of disruption in Chelsea during eight years of construction, Mr Lenon said: "The council says there will be 'some inconvenience' as a result of the construction process. Only some? Based on Crossrail 1, construction would in fact take up to eight years, during which the Kings Road will be reduced to one lane, for five years. This will cause enormous traffic congestion on Chelsea Embankment, Fulham Road, the roads between and further north."

■ On the matter of property damage as a result of station and route construction, Mr Lenon said: "The council now admit there will be damage to properties. They say 'if any properties do require repair' as a result of route and station construction, 'there will be systems of reimbursing the owners'."

"Compensation or no compensation, we don't want property damage in Chelsea. Not to our properties. And definitely not to the 240 listed buildings along the route. It's happened with Crossrail 1, with 600 claims still outstanding – and it will happen with Crossrail 2."

■ On the proposed size and cost of the King's Road station, Mr Lenon said: "The council tells residents the King's Road station will not be huge and will not be a 'Westfield shopping centre'. But neither Crossrail, nor Transport for London, can tell us how big it actually will be."

"They do say that a sizeable chunk of the total cost of the station will have to be raised by commercial and retail development on the site. So we will have huge chain stores, restaurants and office blocks on the King's Road – creating just another cloned High Street."

The No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign has united local residents and businesses in opposing a Crossrail 2 diversion through Chelsea and any Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea.

The campaign supports a Crossrail 2 route that goes from Victoria to Clapham Junction, which would save £1 billion to £1.2 billion. The campaign says Chelsea is already well served by Sloane Square and South Kensington underground stations and the Kings Road itself by five bus routes. Chelsea does not need a third, bigger station.

Pasta-sauce magnate Loyd Grossman, known also for presenting *Through the Keyhole*

HERE is the text of Kensington & Chelsea Council's Q&A with Transport for London.

**RBKC:** We are aware that there are concerns about the current proposed Crossrail 2 station at King's Road. There have been a number of claims made about it, which we know to be misleading or incorrect. So we asked TfL, as promoters of the Crossrail 2 scheme, to answer the following questions. It has been claimed that the station will extend from the fire station to Waitrose. Is this true?

**TfL:** "The Crossrail 2 station will not extend all the way from the Fire Station to Waitrose at street level. At this stage, it is too early to say exactly where the station would extend to, and from, as the station design is still being developed. The proposed Crossrail 2 station at King's Road would be underground. Platforms would be up to 250m in length as they will be for Crossrail 1. Above ground, it's expected the station footprint would be contained within the areas of surface interest, as defined in the 2014 safeguarding consultation material."

**RBKC:** It has also been claimed that there will be three or four station entrances. Is this true?

**TfL:** "The final station design is not yet complete, but the expectation is that there will be one station entrance. The expected passenger demand is not likely to justify more than one entrance."

**RBKC:** There have been various claims about the number of passengers that would be alighting at the station. We have heard there could be 45,000 or even 72,000 people exiting onto King's Road per hour. What are your forecasts for this station?

**TfL:** "It appears that these figures have been arrived at by assuming that vast majority of people travelling on Crossrail 2 will all want to disembark in Chelsea rather than at Clapham Junction, Victoria, Tottenham Court Road or King's Cross / Euston. This will not be the case. To put the figures into perspective, approximately 93,000 people exit Canary Wharf Tube station on a typical day. Given that Canary Wharf is one of the busiest stations on the network it is not a practical assumption that 45,000 or 72,000 people would be using King's Road per hour. We are still undertaking a detailed assessment about the number of people who would exit a Crossrail 2 station at Kings Road but initial

forecasts suggest that around 5,000 people per hour would use the station (two-way) during the peak hours of 7.00 am and 10.00 am. This peak hour usage is comparable to that of Sloane Square Tube station."

**RBKC:** There is a significant amount of concern about damage to buildings as a result of settlement. There has been a claim that Crossrail 1 experienced settlement damage and we may be facing the same impact, and the potential for blight.

**TfL:** "The experience of Crossrail 1 has been very positive. 42km of new rail tunnels under London have been successfully completed and involved tunneling under areas including Mayfair, the Barbican and Canary Wharf. Levels of ground settlement were significantly less than expected due to the high specification of the tunnel boring machines and the extensive monitoring regime put in place with thousands of sensors monitored in real time for the entirety of the tunneling works. Should Crossrail 2 go ahead, the tunnels would be constructed using a tunnel boring machine, with a specification similar to that of Crossrail 1. The stations would be built by excavating the required spaces and lining these with sprayed concrete, in exactly the same way used by Crossrail 1 at Bond Street and other locations. In our experience of building tunnels, modern construction techniques do not result in buildings being affected by ground movement. Crossrail 1 also used a technique called 'compensation grouting' which minimized the effects of ground movement at certain locations. A small number of buildings may be required in order to construct a Crossrail 2 station at King's Road. These have been identified in the safeguarding directions that were issued in March 2015. In all cases, we will seek to minimize the number of buildings used, and will use construction methods which minimize disruption to local residents and businesses."

**RBKC:** It has been claimed that there was 5cm of subsidence on Crossrail 1. Can you clarify how deep the tunnel will be and how much subsidence it will cause?

**TfL:** "There has not been 5cm of subsidence on Crossrail 1. The experience of Crossrail 1 has clearly shown that actual levels of movement have been

much less than this. It is expected that the depth of the tunnel in Chelsea would be around 20metres from ground level to the crown of the tunnel.

Further engineering work needs to be completed before we can accurately confirm the depth. This is comparable to the depth of the Piccadilly line, which is between 17-23m below ground around the South Kensington station. The District line is approximately 5-10 metres below the surface. The Crossrail 2 tunnel will be significantly deeper than the District Line."

**RBKC:** It has also been stated that the autumn consultation will be the last one. Is this true?

**TfL:** "We will carry out further public consultations on Crossrail 2 as the proposals for the scheme develop. Crossrail 2 will not open before 2030 and cannot be built before we have formal consent from the Government, the funds to pay for it and the necessary land has been acquired. Crossrail 1 could only go ahead following approval of the Crossrail Hybrid Bill by Parliament following significant consultation and scrutiny. We have held two major consultations on Crossrail 2 to date, in addition to the Department for Transport's safeguarding consultation. The first was in summer 2013 on the principle of a scheme, and the second was in summer 2014 where we consulted on specific route options along three parts of the route."

"The next public consultation is planned for later this year, following engineering work to refine our proposals. This consultation will provide more information about our preferred route and proposed locations of stations, vent shafts and work sites along the route. Ahead of this, we will be undertaking a programme of engagement with residents and businesses along the route to provide an update on the project and a forum to better understand local community concerns."

**RBKC:** It has been claimed that construction would take up to 8 years and lead to 2 years of closures on Kings Road. What is your construction timeline and anticipated impact?

**TfL:** "The impact of Crossrail 2's construction on London must be kept to a minimum, including on the local road network. As we are in the very early stages of developing Crossrail 2, we have not established detailed construction plans for each Crossrail 2 station. More detailed plans will be

shared for public consultation when the design has been further developed."

**RBKC:** It has been stated that if there were to be a station at King's Road large buildings would come to dominate the area, similar to Tottenham Court Road and that massive development will be required to pay for Crossrail 2. What are your thoughts on this?

**TfL:** "Should Crossrail 2 go ahead, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea would remain the planning authority for new developments on the Kings Road. All potential new developments would still require planning permission from Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Local and London wide planning regulations and policies must also be adhered to. It is not the case that 50% of the scheme costs would be funded through development; the actual figure is expected to be under two per cent. Some stations will facilitate more development than others, according to local circumstances."

**RBKC:** Will the trains run 24 hours?

**TfL:** "Should Crossrail 2 go ahead, work to determine the Crossrail 2 service pattern will take place ahead of services starting. Our current working assumption is that Crossrail 2 would operate at similar times as the rest of the Underground network."

**RBKC:** It has been claimed that Chelsea already has good accessibility. What research have you done to show that this station is needed in our borough?

**TfL:** "Many parts of Chelsea have poor public transport access. A Crossrail 2 station will significantly improve travel times and connectivity from Chelsea to key parts of London. Journeys which currently take 30 minutes or more would be reduced to less than 10 minutes. For example, a journey to Euston St Pancras would be reduced from 33 minutes to around 9 minutes; Tottenham Court Road would be reduced from 33 minutes to around six minutes; Clapham Junction would be reduced from 32 minutes to around three minutes. Nearly 6 sq km of RB Kensington & Chelsea is currently more than 800 metres from a Tube station (a ten-minute walk). A Crossrail station at Kings Road would ensure that all residents of the Chelsea have improved access to London's Tube and rail networks."



■ **CONCERN:** Loyd Grossman.

and *Masterchef*, said: "The construction of a huge Crossrail Station in Chelsea threatens to significantly damage the distinctiveness, scale and intimacy of the King's Road."

"Local people and businesses do not wish £1 billion to be squandered on a scheme which will threaten the historic environment of the King's Road, which is a valuable social, cultural and economic asset not only for those who live nearby, but for all Londoners."

Felicity Kendal, best known for her roles in *The Good Life* and *Rosemary & Thyme*, said: "If a Crossrail station is built here it will destroy Chelsea as we know it. We are not opposed to Crossrail 2, we just don't want a station in Chelsea."

"We are well served by two underground stations and five bus routes. We don't need a huge Crossrail station that will cost a fortune and just create yet another cloned High Street. We love Chelsea the way it is."

Trevor Eve, best known for his roles in *Shoestring* and *Waking*

*the Dead*, said: "These Crossrail stations aren't like tube stations. They are huge structures, with shops, bars, restaurants and offices. A station on the fire station site will destroy the streetscape of the King's Road, will cost London over £1 billion and will destroy the charm of Chelsea."

Top actress Cherie Lunghi, star of TV dramas including *The Manageress* and of *Strictly Come Dancing*, said: "Chelsea is one of London's most fabulous villages. It would be a travesty if we turned the King's Road into just another Oxford Street. A mammoth crossrail station will radically alter the character of the place I and all of my fellow residents are proud to call home. Our public transport links are already very good. We don't need this station – and we definitely don't need tens of thousands of extra people an hour inundating our narrow pavements."

A final consultation of local residents, businesses and stakeholders is due to take place in September. A decision on the final route of Crossrail 2 is due to be made after this.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has suggested the concerns of Chelsea residents may be listened to. He wrote: "There has not been a definite decision taken on any Crossrail 2 station location, and nor will there be until there is a full consultation with the public."

■ **What's your point of view on the Crossrail 2 station plan?**  
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# Community groups bid to claim share of trust's treasure chest

A £100,000 grants programme offering community groups in Kensington and Chelsea funding towards their projects has been met with huge enthusiasm.

More than 170 people had contacted Westway Trust to express an interest in its community grants programme even before applications opened on Monday this week (August 3).

Two types of grants are being offered, worth up to £500 and £2,500 each.

Grants of up to £500 will be available for one-off community celebrations and events such as performance arts workshops, garden and street parties, and arts projects that celebrate local talent and diversity.

Grants worth up to £2,500 will be available for a range of projects that support and improve the health and wellbeing of the local community as well as those that provide employment and economic opportunities. This includes such things as disability sports events, men-



■ **CALL TO ACTION:** Westway Trust's Development Director Louise Wolsey is impressed by the ideas that have come in.

tal health projects, employment and volunteering programmes, and skills training.

Groups and organisations must be located within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Westway Trust is particularly interested to hear from groups or organisations with a focus on communities living in North Kensington and/or close to the Westway estate.

Westway Trust's Development Director, Louise Wolsey, said: "We've heard from a huge range of community groups with some fantastic ideas for events which will really make a difference to the lives of local people."

"As always, these great ideas need cash to make them happen and our community grants fund has been set up to do just that. We hope to be able to fund as many of these projects as possible and enable a varied and vibrant range of community activities to take place over the coming months."

Applications must be made by September 14. For details, go to [www.westway.org](http://www.westway.org)



## NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

## We're putting brakes on supercar boy racers

**O**UR clampdown on supercars in Knightsbridge has been very widely reported over the last few days, with press calls coming in from all over the place, including the Gulf.

It makes a change, I suppose, from enquiries from Local Government Computing Monthly, which is more the sort of publicity I'm used to.

So what's it all about? Well, the council isn't joining the fight against globalisation and the international super-rich. It's much more straightforward that that: it's about a good night's sleep for our residents.

We're not killjoys. Like any chap I know the joy of taking my wheels for a ride on a summer's evening; windows down, music on. But the fact is my Honda Jazz and Elgar CD are barely audible even at the kerbside. McLarens, Ferraris, Bugattis and Lamborghinis are a very different story.

Over the last few years, Knightsbridge has become a magnet for a number of young men, mostly from the Middle-East, who drive supercars.

It's a sort of competitive peacocking really and routes and behaviours have quickly evolved.

Those behaviours include speeding,

causing obstruction and worst of all, engine revving.

Now if you are a *Top Gear* type who wants to see a Bugatti Veyron up close, this is all good news, I suppose, but if you are a resident living in a formerly quiet backstreet, it's a disaster.

Supercars often have something called 'sports mode'. Switch it on and rev your engine while stationary and it's loud enough to raise the dead, never mind blow someone's hat off.

So if you have got several cars doing it intermittently into the small hours it

soon becomes intolerable. Many of our residents are at the end of their tether quite frankly and so we felt we had to do something.

What we are going to use is something called a Public Space Protection Order which, amongst other things, will make it an offence to rev engines in certain streets in Knightsbridge.

If we catch someone breaching the order we can issue a fixed penalty notice of £100. Of course we're not expecting Zonda and Veyron drivers to quail at a ticket for a mere hundred quid, but we'll be keeping track.

If they rack up a few tickets they might just find their cars being seized by the police. Hopefully that will start to have a salutary effect.

It's a sort of competitive peacocking... routes and behaviours have quickly evolved



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## Pick your favourite place

DO you think somewhere in Kensington and Chelsea is one of England's greatest places?

Perhaps you enjoy the hustle and bustle of Portobello Market, the tranquility of Holland Park or the iconic Albert Bridge.

Members of the public are being asked to take part in a new competition to celebrate some of our most attractive and inspiring places.

England's Great Places has been established as part of

the celebrations to mark the centenary of the Royal Town Planning Institute, the membership body for the UK and Ireland's planning professionals.

Members of the public can make their nominations until Tuesday, September 1. An eminent panel will then produce a list of ten regional winners who will all go forward to a public vote to find England's greatest place.

Nominating your favourite place is simple. Visit:

[www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk) and make your choice, or you can tweet your place: @rtpiplanners or use #rtpigreatplaces. You can also Instagram your place: rtpiplanners

The Royal Town Planning Institute and its members have been working with communities for a century to help create great places for people. Each place nominated will also be judged against how it was shaped, protected or improved by planners and the planning system.



# Boris backs booze bracelets in bid to beat drunken disorder

THE Mayor of London is to make Westminster streets safer by introducing "Boris booze bracelets" to control drunks and cut violent and anti-social crime currently running at the rate of more than 2,000 incidents a month.

A pilot trial in Lambeth and Southwark to fit disorderly drinkers with round-the-clock electronic ankle tags has proved so successful that now Mayor Boris Johnson is to bring it to Westminster to help sober up West End rowdies.

Authorities hope that the ankle bracelets will help reduce alcohol-related crime such as violent attacks and anti-social behaviour, which in June numbered 2,140 incidents recorded by the Met.

In a year-long trial south of the river the bracelets have worked to keep 91 per cent of offenders sober, so now the scheme is to be extended to Westminster and all over the capital.

In the first scheme of its kind in the UK, the compulsory ankle tags monitor alcohol in an offender's perspiration. The tags work by tak-

By LWN reporter  
**GEOFF BAKER**

ing readings every 30 minutes and the data is wirelessly transmitted to be monitored by the authorities. Anyone found in breach of their sobriety order, whether through alcohol consumption or tampering with their tag, is given a formal warning. A second breach leads to a fine or a tougher order, or in some cases a custodial sentence.

The bracelets have been used in Lambeth and Southwark for offences such as drink-driving, assault, and drunk and disorderly conduct.

"To date, 111 'alcohol abstinence monitoring requirement' orders have been issued and more than 100 offenders have complied with their order and through wearing the tag remained sober for up to 120 days. The average compliance rate for other similar community based orders is 61 per cent," said the Mayor's spokesman.

Alcohol-related crime is estimated to cost the UK between £8bn and £13bn every year, placing a

heavy burden on public services – 40 per cent of all A&E attendances are related to alcohol misuse. According to Public Health England, alcohol-related crime is significantly higher in London than all other English regions.

"Following the success of the South London pilot, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime is extending the scheme and working closely with the Government to drive support for a London-wide roll-out of the scheme," said the spokesman.

"The scheme has also won Government support with a manifesto commitment to roll the tags out nationally."

The introduction of the sobriety tags was one of the Mayor's 2012 manifesto pledges. They have been welcomed by the police, courts and probation officers to help reduce alcohol related re-offending, ease the pressure on police and the criminal justice system and make town centres safer, particularly at night.

The Mayor said: "Alcohol-fuelled crimes put a massive strain on frontline services and cost businesses and taxpayers billions of pounds.

"From drink-driving to assault, theft, and criminal damage, our sobriety tags have proved a fantastic success in helping offenders across south London to stay off the booze and avoid the circumstances under which they might re-offend.

"It's now time to bring this exciting new crime fighting technology to the rest of the capital, and help remove the scourge of alcohol-fuelled criminal behaviour from all of London's streets."

Justice Minister Andrew Selous said: "We are delighted to extend this successful scheme to crack down on alcohol-related crime. The results have been very encouraging and tie into the wider work we are doing to prevent people becoming victims of those who fail to control their drinking.

"We are making the very best technology available to the police and other criminal justice agencies to help protect people from such crimes.

"The trial in London of using a tag to monitor how much alcohol has been drunk is an example of using technology to solve this problem, and we are committed to making it available nationally."



■ **NEW TECHNOLOGY:** An electronic tag similar to the devices being proposed for use in London by Mayor Boris Johnson.

## New garden bridge's opponents dispute '80% in favour' poll

OPPONENTS of the controversial Garden Bridge have slammed figures which suggest that 80 per cent of Londoners are in favour of the tourist attraction as inaccurate.

Polling company ComRes interviewed 1,003 adults living in Lambeth and Westminster by telephone between July 7 and 12 and 1,034 adults online between July 9 and 14.

The research was commissioned by the Garden Bridge Trust, which is responsible for raising the £175million needed to build the bridge.

According to the figures more than three quarters (78 per cent) of Londoners are in favour of the bridge being built, with support in Westminster and Lambeth, where the bridge crosses the Thames, at 77 per cent.

Of those aged between 18 and 24 who were polled, 81 per cent were in support. More than half of those polled in that age group also said London needed more green spaces.

Bee Emmott, executive di-

rector of the Garden Bridge Trust, said: "It is very encouraging to see high levels of support across London for such an innovative project, which will improve the environment for Londoners.

"Local residents of Lambeth and Westminster and Londoners in general can see the benefits of a pedestrian footbridge with green space which will become a much-loved London landmark."

However, the poll has angered opponents of the 366 metre-long bridge who say it does not reflect their views.

Campaigner Michael Ball said: "This survey is so far off reflecting our experience on the South Bank, where people are queuing up to sign our petition against the bridge, and shows how easily these things can be manipulated by asking simplistic questions, especially when commissioned by the Garden Bridge Trust.

"Of course many people think the idea of a garden bridge is nice enough, but that's not the issue – the respondents were phoned, so by

definition they couldn't see what was proposed, which is a little odd, given that it's a largely visual thing, and so weren't shown the views that would be wrecked. They also weren't told about the hour-long queues at weekends and the huge crowds."

Resident Wai-King Cheung said: "It's time to have a real poll that properly informs the public of the dis-benefits that the Garden Bridge Trust aren't telling us about and then let's see how much Londoners want this financial burden for the sake of an unnecessary folly."

Planning permission was granted by both authorities last year. The bridge will link Temple on the north side of the river with the South Bank. The Treasury and Transport for London have promised £30million each towards the cost of the building work, with the rest coming from private donations.

■ **What's your point of view on the garden bridge proposals?**  
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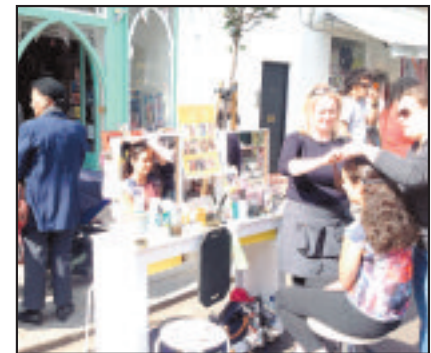
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# Sun shines on the market



■ Fine weather graced a community event staged to mark 150 years of traditional Portobello and Golborne market. The regular crowds from Portobello were encouraged to explore nearby Blenheim Crescent and Talbot Road when they heard the music and saw the attractive stalls offering a variety of foods, clothing, jewellery and other treats. Here is a selection of pictures capturing the day, which was blessed by warm sunshine. Send pictures of community events to [editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk)





# LWN KENSINGTON NEWS

## and festival



■ **SUN BLESSED:** Trelick Tower overlooks the stalls, bunting and balloons as Golborne Road Festival gets under way in North Kensington.

THE Golborne Road Festival returned after a year off, offering residents and visitors a community event rich in fun and culture – live music, dance, food from around the world, children's entertainment, arts and community stalls.

Golborne Road was completely closed to traffic during the festival. Children could explore a fire engine and a police car and bounce to their hearts' content on an inflatable.

A new attraction this year was the sports and fitness zone where you could try out a variety of activities. The Venture Centre adventure playground on Wornington Road was also open.

Live music acts included some favourites from previous festivals as well as some new faces. Highlights on the music stage included singer songwriter Marianna Zappi, the soulful voice of Josh Oro and the Djembe players and dancers, Nahini Doumbia. Boujemaa Bouboul and Gwana UK were playing their brand of Moroccan music while headline act Hardway rocked the Golborne with reggae and jazz, and special guest JC001.

Organisers offered "sincere thanks" to the festival's partners and sponsors: Ardmore Construction, Ally Capellino, Catalyst Gateway, City Living Local Life Golborne, Community Development Foundation, David Phillips & Partners, Galicia Restaurant, Hutch, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council, Love Golborne Ward Initiative, Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Pizza East, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Venture Community Centre and Westway Trust.



■ **FULL VOICE:** Alison May entertains at the Golborne Road Festival.



■ **CROWD PLEASERS:** Live music enhanced the festival.



■ **COOL OFF:** Time for an ice cream.

## Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

### FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

#### London News WEEKLY pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

### Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Co-op	104-105 Bernick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goudge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

### Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Co-op	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	Kensington	SW7 4EJ
Tesco Metro	146-148 High Street	Kensington	W8 6SU
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB
Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

### LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	51 Townsmead Road	Fulham	SW6 2SY
Sainsbury's Store	Fulham Broadway Retail Centre	Fulham	SW6 1BW
Co-op	254 North End Road	London	SW6 1NJ
Co-op	314 Lille Road	Fulham	SW6 7PS
Co-op	60 Parsons Green Lane	Fulham	SW6 4HU
Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
Fulham Library	596 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Tesco Super Store	180 Shepherds Bush Road	London	W6 7NL
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Morrisons	114-116 Shepherds Bush Centre	London	W12 8PP





■ HISTORIC: Eccleston Square

## Residents fight demolition plan

PIMLICO residents are uniting to oppose the demolition of a significant building in historic Eccleston Square.

Described as "brutalist" in design, the three large blocks of flats proposed as replacements for the existing building at No 84 would overshadow the north-east corner of the square, say critics.

Eccleston Square and neighbouring Warwick Square were designed and built in the 1830s by renowned master builder Thomas Cubitt. The houses he originally built on the site at No 84 were demolished in the late 1950s to allow construction of the underground Victoria Line.

Westminster Council, heeding the opinions of residents at the time, required that the building now at No 84, erected in 1989, be constructed in the Cubitt style. It

sits partly within the conservation area and conforms to the council's conservation guidelines.

Opponents claim that "despite the proposed demolition and redevelopment by Mosaic Properties International being wildly at odds with its own planning policies, Westminster Council appears to be taking it seriously".

A planning hearing is due in September or October.

But, in what could be seen as a repeat of history, local residents say they are determined to preserve the character of "important" Cubitt Square and are up in arms about the proposal. Over 150 have written letters of objection, and they say they are still coming in.

An online survey has also been set up to collect opinions, with none favouring the development.

## Chapel rests but worship continues

THE Savoy Chapel will be closed as usual during August and September and during that time no services will be held there.

However, the Chaplain, the Rev Professor Peter Galloway, will be preaching at All Saints Queensbury on August 9, at St Peter's Hammersmith on August 23, at St Mary's Finchley on September 13 and All Saints Rothbury on



September 20. Subject to planning consent being granted, work will also begin on the restoration of the perimeter walls and railings as well as a number of other minor works.

The Chapel, pictured, will reopen on Thursday, October 1, and our first services will be the marriage of William Scott and Rebecca Rankin on October 3, and a Sung Eucharist at 11am, followed by the baptism of Frances Elizabeth Grace Hanna on October 4.

Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

## Charlie Pipes Up!



## Cheers! Enterprising brewer tastes profit

THERE are two types of entrepreneurs; firstly, there are the disruptors, those that come up with a completely new concept, product or service that can redefine a market or change the way people do things.

Then there are the innovators. Those that take an existing business concept or product and make it better and do it better. This, of course is not a new idea, it's a trend that's gone back centuries.

For example, when 17th century French Benedictine monk Dom Perignon decided to embrace the bubbles that were appearing in his Champenois wine bottles rather than try and get rid of them, fuelled by an envy of the wine produced by his Burgundian neighbours to the south, he struck upon a business opportunity that created a legacy that spans hundreds of years.

Mentioning this drink-related example of entrepreneurial talent over the many others history offers up allows me to segway nicely into a modern day enterprise in my own neighbourhood that innovates to succeed.

There's a boozer in Pimlico, the London borough that was the birthplace of a certain successful plumbing enterprise, which really hit this home to me. The Cask is a craft beer pub, which, for me, exemplifies the innovative approach to entrepreneurialism that can boost the economy as much as the disruptors from the tech scene.

The pub has a list of beers and lagers (plus a good choice of wines and spirits) as long as a stock inventory of an Amazon warehouse from all four corners of the world. I think if anyone was to take up the 'round the world' challenge to drink beers from different countries it'd take them longer than Phileas Fogg did to get round the globe. Enterprises like this also elec-

trify the business network by providing an outlet for micro and medium-sized breweries fighting for a slice of the market against the big boys and a place for talented and creative small businesses producing the bar snacks and pork pies on display on the Cask bar to sell their wares.

Founded in 2009 when the economy was going to hell in a handcart, Cask has proved that a recession can be a good time to start a business, but is now proving doing things in a different, and arguably better, way when the country is on more of a financial even keel will also bring success. Even though we are out of recession and, as the latest GDP figures told us, growing our economy, the public still have a recessionary-hangover with their spending habits. They are more careful with where they spend and want to make sure they get value and quality from each pound they hand over. This is also one of the reasons we do well at Pimlico Plumbers. When I started the business in 1979 there were lots of other plumbers out there – and there still are – but by doing things differently, and better, it sets us apart from the com-

‘Cask’ has proved that a recession can be a good time to start a business

petition.

The same is true of our plumbing merchants business that opened last year. We're not the only merchants in our area, but by applying the Pimlico principles to the business, the enterprise we set up to take greater control of our supply chain is also becoming very popular with London's tradespeople. In every town and city up and down the country there are entrepreneurs who look at other businesses and say, I can do that and I can do it better. It creates competition, which can be a healthy motivator in business, but mainly it adds another string to the country's economic bow. I'll raise a glass to that!

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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# UNDER THE WESTWAY

## Horse riding review clears first hurdle

**Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, reflects on the findings of the independent review into the future of equestrianism on the estate**

It has been a milestone week in determining whether there is a requirement for horse riding facilities for people in the local community.

In February, Westway Trust's Board took the decision to establish a specialist group of experts to consider if, and how, equestrianism can continue in North Kensington. The independent "equestrian steering group" that was set up completed the first stage of its review this week and I'd like to use the column to keep readers up to date.

Before I share the findings I would like to talk a bit about the process.

We wanted to be sure that the review was run by people who understand horse riding, so we enlisted the support and advice of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), the national governing body

for the sport. We invited the BEF to nominate one of their expert members to chair an eight member independent steering group. The steering group comprises of representatives from the locality and interested parties, including horse riding participants, parents, advocates and the local ward councillor, as well as experts from the world of sport and equestrianism.

An independent consultant, David Gadsby, MBIAC, from Atticus Risk Management, carried out the research and analysis and was selected from a shortlist of candidates drawn up by the BEF.

The purpose of the review has been to provide Westway Trust with an understanding of the demand for horse riding in the area. The steering group wanted to understand the current provision for horse riding and assess the minimum requirements to meet demands. They wanted also to measure the existing and potential benefits.

An extensive research exercise was undertaken. Local people were invited to fill out an online survey and questionnaires were sent to all

schools, libraries, resident associations and groups in the North Kensington area. In addition, Atticus conducted one hundred face-to-face interviews and held in-depth interviews with informed parties, including a number of riding schools in West London. Our consultants went to great lengths to get to grips with the issue to show we are really taking into account local views.

The response rate for the on-line survey was low, with fewer than 300 people filling in the questionnaire (compared to our tennis offering, which sees our courts host well over 100,000 people in a 12 month period), which suggests that the demand is not widespread. Given that self-completion is predominantly undertaken by those with an interest in, or positive view of, equestrianism, we have been very careful in extrapolating too much from the findings.

Of those that participated, most said there were two main reasons why they were not doing horse riding - cost and lack of facilities.

The findings highlight that there are particular benefits that

horse riding provides to specific sectors of the community, including children and the disabled. Those who responded noted that "riding appeals to many who feel uncomfortable with participation in, or indeed excluded from, mainstream sport."

While these benefits fit with Westway Trust's goals of improving local people's health and well-being, in taking decisions about the future of the site and whether or not equestrianism has a future on it, we need to balance the various competing factors. We need to consider the heritage of the site and the fact that equestrianism has been available to local people for many years. We will also need to consider the high possibility of the erosion of equestrian provision in the local area due to pressure on some providers to develop their equestrian based land in the area over the next 10 years.

These two factors need to be considered against the resource implications of establishing a future equestrian facility; whether a new facility tackles the cost barriers; and whether other sports options

might be a more effective use of the site.

There are also significant practical matters to take into account if we plan to provide horse riding. It takes up lots of space, requires specialist facilities and there are animal welfare issues too.

What is clear from the review is that a decision about the future of the site is not straight forward and the Board will need to weigh up the community need verses want; financial constraints verses opportunities; and the compatibility of the operation with the other sports facilities envisaged for the next generation Sports Village, when making any decisions.

Westway Trust Board has studied the report and decided to commission a feasibility study into practicalities and issues in providing horse riding. The study will assess site and facility requirements and financial viability.

We expect to complete the feasibility study by October 2015. In the meantime, the full 'Review of Equestrian Activities' is on Westway Trust website. We'd be keen to hear from you.

## Eash is a world champion!

A TEENAGER tennis player who trains at Westway Sports & Fitness in North Kensington has been crowned the boys' junior deaf tennis world champion.

Eash Hayat, 13, triumphed at the World Deaf Tennis Championships in Nottingham. The championships brought together some of the world's best deaf tennis players in an international competition for the very first time. There was a lot for Eash to live up to, having recently been presented with the Tennis Foundation's Most Promising Player of the Year Award but the Westway player remained calm and focused in the face of some of the world's best junior players.

His unstoppable success began with a phenomenal 8-1 win against Russia's Roman Malyshov in the youth boys' singles quarterfinal. Eash went on to defeat France's Alexandre Sanchez 8-2 before facing Johannes Behr of Germany. Eash won a jaw-dropping seven games in a row, spectacularly triumphing over his opponent.

Eash said: "I was nervous going into the final as I lost to him last year, but I was also confident for this tournament as I've worked really hard with my coach Andy Kemp and the team at Westway Sport & Fitness, and I got my tactics right."

"I've also become a lot stronger in the last year under the direction of my Strength & Conditioning Coach, Mark Sheppard, but I still

have a long way to go. It's an honour to be world champion and I'm really pleased."

Eash's victory in the World Deaf Tennis Championships is the biggest achievement in his tennis journey to date, however his love for the game was far from evident at the start.

Eash started playing tennis at the age of eight after being enrolled in one of the Pay & Play sessions at Westway Sports & Fitness. After hitting the ball, Eash was left unimpressed by tennis and turned to his dad and said: "This is a stupid game! All you do is run around after a ball and hit



■ PUPIL & COACH: Eash and his coach Andy Kemp share a moment after the final

This stubborn streak would hold him in good stead in his journey ahead but refusing to hit another ball. For the next three months Eash would sit court side and watched his big brother, Yousef, in action and gradually stated to warm to tennis.

After a while he began helping to collect the balls, soon he started to hit against the wall and before long he took up the opportunity to hit with Andy Kemp for a few minutes at the end of the session.

A few minutes gradually turned into ten minutes, then a quarter of an hour and it soon became clear that Eash was a player of talent. Since starting at Westway he has progressed through the programme at Westway Performance Centre, from Pay & Play through the Mini Tennis Programme and into the Developmental Performance Programme, where he is on a pathway to help him maximize his potential, both in tennis and in life. Andy Kemp, Head Coach, Westway Sport & Fitness and Director of Teach Tennis International, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Eash and well deserved. He works extremely hard and has a good foundation to his game and is very focused on improving, which is essential if he is to realise his goal and achieve a collegiate tennis scholarship in the USA."

Organised by the Tennis Foundation, Great Britain's leading tennis charity, in association with UK Deaf Sport, the 1st World Deaf Tennis Championships is sanctioned by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD).

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This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by [Checkatrade.com](http://Checkatrade.com). Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email [peterfau67@gmail.com](mailto:peterfau67@gmail.com)

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## Easy solution to Apple scam

APPLE phone users are at risk of a new scam over a pop-up message saying their device has crashed and to call a number to get it unlocked.

The issue occurs when browsing using Apple's Safari browser and all pop-ups are headed 'iOS Crash Report' and state 'iOS Crashed. Contact support to fix.'

The message advises you to click OK to get the crash report and shows a Freephone number which is either 0800 279 6211, 0800 652 4895 or 0800 310 1061.

According to the Apple forum you will be told you need to pay \$30 to fix it. People who make the payments are not just parting with the money, but are also handing over their credit card details to scammers.

### What to do if the message appears

1. Press the Home button to leave Safari.
2. Swipe up from the bottom of the screen and tap the 'Plane' icon to put your phone or tablet in flight mode to shut down all connections.
3. Go to Settings - Safari - Clear History and Website Data. If you are using iOS 7 or earlier tap Clear History - Clear Cookies and Data.
4. Open Safari again and the message will have gone.
5. Swipe up and tap the plane icon to turn off flight mode.

# The cancer cure crooks

By Peter Faulkner

**MANY people believe that cannabis oil can help those with cancer, leading to a boom in the number of people buying cannabis oil over the internet.**

Unfortunately, many of those who pay for cannabis oil online are being scammed by fraudsters.

In some instances, the criminals behind these heartless scams offer low-grade oil with no potential medical benefits at an exorbitant price. In others, they simply take people's money and send nothing out in return.

Even worse, one bogus organisation is even using the address of the genuine Cancer Research charity in London.

Cancer Research UK, which has a shop in Kensington High Street, said: "We have become aware that scammers are tricking cancer patients and their families into handing over money for cannabis oil, yet receiving nothing in return.

"At least one of these fraudsters is using the email address [ukcancerresearchcentre@gmail.com](mailto:ukcancerresearchcentre@gmail.com) and claiming to be based at our St John St reet office in The City which is the address

of our London office.

"But the email address given has nothing to do with Cancer Research UK or our employees."

### How can I avoid being caught out?

The world of internet medication is a murky one that is generally best avoided if you are worried about being scammed. Certainly, Cancer Research UK advises cancer patients and their families not to buy cancer treatments of any kind online.

Instead, it recommends calling its information line on 0808 800 4040 with any questions about cancer or treatment, whether conventional or alternative.

You can also find more information about cannabis and the treatment of cancer on its website. I've been defrauded.

### What should I do?

Most of the companies offering dodgy medications over the internet are unregulated, which makes it harder to get your money back if you are caught out by a scam such as the current one involving cannabis oil.

However, you may be able to help bring the perpetrators to justice by reporting the scam to the police via



**Cancer Research UK's shop in Marylebone**

Action Fraud, which you can contact on 0300 123 2040.

"If you believe you have been a victim of this fraud, please contact the police," Cancer Research UK said.

**Footnote:** The High Street Kensington shop earlier this year trialled an innovative way for people to donate

money. People passing by the shop simply had to tap their card onto the shop window and this triggered a screen showing the charity's scientists working in their lab and showing just what your money would be contributing to.

## Stop mailbox misery...Avoid bogus companies...Avoid Hajj misery

■ IF you live in a communal block of flats in Westminster or surrounding boroughs be on your guard for fraudsters targeting your mailbox.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau's is warning people of a new fraud which exploits the delay in replacing a customer's bank cards by targeting victims and intercepting their mail.

Fraudsters target letterboxes in communal flats and premises that lack security and CCTV to steal victims' mail and looking specifically for banking documentation. And the richer the area the richer the pickings.

The NFIB says fraudsters have identified that if a genuine banking customer requests a new card, some banks will send the replacement card, but not cancel the damaged card straight away, leaving it active for several days.

Having identified a victim via the stolen letters and with all the personal information they need, the fraudster calls the bank pretending to be the customer and states that the plastic bank card has snapped but is still functioning, and will need a replacement sent to their home address.

The fraudster returns a few days later to steal the bank card from the mailbox and begins taking money from the account. The victim is unaware his account is being emptied out until he asks for a statement or accesses his account online.

Research conducted for Action Fraud found that 71% of people do not regularly redirect their post for at least six months when they move house, and 1 in 3 don't shred letters before throwing them away. This leaves them vulnerable.



■ BRITISH Muslims living in the capital who book trips to Mecca (above) in September to celebrate Hajj are being warned about the threat of fraudsters setting up bogus travel packages.

The City of London Police has launched a campaign to keep people out of the clutches of fraudsters as they search for the best deals to take them to Saudi Arabia for what for many will be a once in a life-time trip.

The national campaign aims to raise awareness of the threat posed to Muslims by Hajj fraud and to encourage victims to report to Action Fraud.

The campaign is being supported by the Council of British Hajjis, Get Safe Online, ABTA, ATOL and Trading Standards who will all be raising awareness via social media.

Each year up to 25,000 British Muslims, many from this area, travel for Hajj spending around £125 million on their pilgrimages.

■ A WARNING this week about cloned companies comes from the Financial Conduct Authority who point out to investors that there is no compensation available from the Financial Ombudsman if things go wrong with a bogus company.

Fraudsters are using the name Investec Capital Corporation in a boiler-room cold-call operation targeting unsuspecting UK investors. The clone firm operates out of an address in New York and operates the website [www.investeccapitalcorp.com](http://www.investeccapitalcorp.com).

Other clone firms warned against include:

- London-based KA Financial Services, clone of EEA-authorized Kaspar Adolf;
- China International Corporation Capital Limited, clone of a London-based firm of the same name;
- UK RBB Barclays Business, clone of Barclays Bank plc; and
- Danske Capital, clone of an FCA-authorized firm.

The regulator also warned against doing business with Edward Windsor, saying he is a "bogus employee" of genuine authorised firm Pictet Asset Management Limited.

Finally, the FCA warned that Evergreen Private and Trust plc is falsely claiming to be authorised by the watchdog and is targeting UK consumers.

## Handy numbers

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### Kensington & Chelsea TS

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### Citizens Advice

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# Benefit of borough's community kitchen garden is growing on us



■ **GROWING PLACES:** Guests join Mayor Robert Freeman, at the launch of the borough's latest community kitchen gardens.



THE Royal Borough's two newest community kitchen gardens are in full bloom and already providing gardening residents with a healthy share of their five a day.

The gardens at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Pond House, Chelsea, are the latest to be added to the Royal Borough's kitchen garden scheme, which now features nearly 500 plots in 64 community gardens that are enjoyed by well over 1,000 residents.

The hospital's kitchen garden, supported by the hospital charity CW+, features 16 plots, looked after by hospital staff, which have already yielded crops of radishes, courgettes and peas. In addition to this, the hospital has also established a medicinal garden featuring a variety of herbs including basil, sage and thyme, which have long been noted for their healing properties. The Pond House community garden has 19 plots, with crops of courgettes and potatoes proving very popular with enthusiastic new gardeners.

To mark the opening of the Chelsea and Westminster garden on July 30 by the Royal Borough's Mayor Councillor Robert Freeman, there was a special workshop called Herbs for Wellbeing.

Councillor Freeman said: "The health benefit of eating five a day has long been recognised, so it is very fitting that Chelsea and Westminster Hospital has joined our community garden project. I'm delighted to welcome the latest crop of gardeners to our wonderful scheme."

Trystan Hawkins, arts director at CW+, said: "We were thrilled to be involved with this fantastic project. As the hospital charity, we aim to improve the hospital experience and environment, for patients, families and staff. This garden provides a relaxing environment, as well as encouraging a healthy lifestyle."

Research by the American Journal of Public Health has shown that people who grow their own fruit and vegetables are more likely to hit the target of eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day than non-gardeners and even people who have their own garden at home.

The study, carried out in 2011, showed that 56 per cent of community gardeners meet recommendations to consume five a day, compared with 37 per cent of home gardeners and 25 per cent of non-gardeners. It found that community gardens provide a unique intervention that narrows the divide between people and the places where food is grown and increases local opportunities to eat well.



■ **GREEN CHAMPIONS:** the council's community garden team, left to right: Lisa Wilkinson, Terry Oliver, Will Gould and Bulent Kazim.



■ **OPENING TIME:** Royal Borough's Mayoress, Mrs Robert Freeman, Mayor Councillor Robert Freeman, Councillor William Pascal and Mr Trystan Hawkins.



■ **POSITIVE EFFECT:** Smiles on the faces of guests during an unguarded moment at the official opening illustrate how enjoyable the community gardens can be.



■ **TESTING:** Left to right: Amy Chrisp, Maria Overton (both from Hammersmith Community Gardens), Hannah Spencer, Sharon Aylott - both from Children's Burns Unit (Mars Ward).

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W N E S

### WILL THEIR POSTCODES KEEP THEM IN THEIR PLACE?

**DATES & VENUES**

Arcola Theatre, Dalston	28 Jul - 01 Aug	www.arcolatheatre.com
CLF Arts Cafe, Peckham	04 - 07 Aug	www.clfartcafe.org
Saatchi Gallery, Chelsea	10 - 12 Aug	www.saatchigallery.com
Bernie Grant, Tottenham	14 - 15 Aug	www.berniegrantcentre.co.uk



# London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 36

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Thursday, August 6th 2015

## Who'll have red faces as Queen makes history?



■ **MILESTONE MOMENT:** Gibraltar will have a special stamp to commemorate The Queen's longest-reigning record.

By Geoff Baker

LONDON is set for a last-minute scramble to avoid the hiccup of having no official plans to mark The Queen becoming the longest-reigning monarch in British history in September.

Responding to reports that Her Majesty wanted "no fuss" on the big day, Downing Street, the Mayor's Office, the GLA and borough councils have toed the line and not planned any special celebrations.

But now her home town risks looking like it has been caught on the hop as Canada, the United States and many other cities around the UK and the world are planning scores of events to celebrate The Queen's milestone, and confused London authorities are urgently asking "should we be doing something?"

The Queen will become the longest-reigning monarch in 1,000 years of British sovereigns on September 9th, surpassing the record created by her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned for a total of 63 years and 216 days.

The historic achievement has been widely heralded in the world's media for more than a year but London authorities have not fixed any celebrations because of their understanding that The Queen wanted to play it down.

But now, with the date just five weeks away and with other cities organising big bashes, London officials are hurrying to investigate whether to organise eleventh-hour events in order to avoid the embarrassment of appearing to ignore The Queen's



■ **LONG TO REIGN OVER US:** The Queen will become this country's longest-reigning monarch next month – although the occasion may be a low-key affair.

remarkable new record. Last week key authorities still said that they have nothing or very little planned.

When contacted to ask if the GLA had plans to mark Her Majesty's milestone, a spokesman said: "The GLA is not running any events but I assume the Government might be marking it somehow."

Similarly, a spokesman for Westminster Council said: "I'm not aware of any plans."

The Mayor's Office said: "We have no plans – City Hall raised it with the Palace and were advised they didn't want to mark the occasion."

A spokesman for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea said: "There are plans in the pipeline at our Mayor's office but nothing that I can go into yet."

A spokesman for the Royal

Palaces – which manages the Tower of London, Kensington Palace, Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace – said a proposal to flood-light the Tower for the anniversary had been scrapped but "there are plans for a very small scale film installation at Kensington Palace".

Downing Street did not respond to enquiries of whether the Prime Minister had any celebrations planned.

It is understood that the Royal Mail may be issuing a commemorative stamp, but there has been no official confirmation of this.

But British money mints are planning to mark the milestone. The Royal Mint is to celebrate the occasion with the release of a commemorative coin which

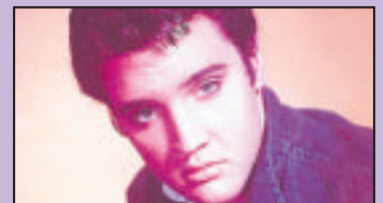
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A little bit of royal history



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When The King met The Beatles

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TURN TO PAGE 14

# ROYAL LONDON

## Last-minute 'nerves' over Queen's historic milestone

# 'Unprecedented record of service'

FROM PAGE 13

will be revealed later this month. And the Mint of the Isle of Man, where The Queen is known as "the Lord of Man", are to issue three Crowns depicting Her Majesty on horseback with the inscription "Longest-reigning monarch 6th February 1952 – 9th September 2015".

The Bournemouth-based Jubilee Mint is also to issue a £5 gold coin. The mint said: "September 9th will be the largest and most important Royal milestone in the life of our Sovereign, prompting a huge wave of demand for commemorative coins and other collectables. This will be an extraordinary achievement on an unprecedented scale and an event that will be celebrated all over the UK and throughout the Commonwealth."

Other principal towns are also planning celebrations. In Windsor the council is building a £400,000 bandstand in the royal town's Alexandra Gardens and a new 6.3 kilometre walkway with 63 markers representing the years of The Queen's reign.

In Wales, a dozen giant statues of The Queen, including a crimson and gold-faced "Welsh Queen" will be paraded through St Asaph in commemoration. Lucy Jones, head of art at The Giant Manufacturing Company Ltd in Chester, said: "The Welsh Queen is one of a set of 12ft Queen Elizabeth II giants created to celebrate the Queen becoming the longest reigning monarch in September."

In Bristol, a special "longest to reign over us" service of thanksgiving will be

held in the city's cathedral and in Colchester the local MP Will Quince has organised a giant art display by the town's schoolchildren.

Mr Quince said: "It is a pretty unprecedented record of devoted public service to a country by Her Majesty the Queen. She is becoming the longest-serving monarch in our nation's history."

"I think, as the oldest recorded town in the country, Colchester should play its small part in celebrating that, and this is also getting young people involved in the significance of this milestone."

Around the world, various nations are planning to mark the occasion. Gibraltar is issuing its first-ever £10 stamp and in the USA, royalists are celebrating too – the city of Pittsburgh is even renaming itself "Britsburgh" with a festival including a programme of royal choral music by the choir of Trinity College Cambridge, an international football match, bars selling Fuller's ale, a Queen-look-

like contest, Scotch whisky tasting, theatre productions of classic English drama, church services and a Commonwealth dinner for city bigwigs.

In Canada, the government has announced the issue of a commemorative coin and postage stamp and a new \$20 banknote to mark the big day and the Monarchist League of Canada has organised events in more than 70 cities and towns.

"A Queen faithful in her duty and beloved by her people will be honoured throughout Canada, from the First Nations communities of Whati in the far reaches of the Northwest Territories to the little town of Flower's Grove in Newfoundland and Labrador, and a great many places in between," said the League's chairman Robert Finch.

But in London the milestone is currently set to go largely unnoticed. Even the capital's usually-opportunistic and flooded souvenir market seems to be slow off the mark, with only a handful of "longest reign" items of memorabilia so far on sale – two china boxes ranging from £12 to £40, a commemorative plate for £57, a pillow, a hipflask and an iPad case.

By contrast, in 1896 when Queen Victoria beat her grandfather George III's record of 21,644 days on the throne the memorabilia market went into overdrive with medals, masses of crockery, embroidered scrolls, biscuit tins, books and posters produced – and bells were rung in churches throughout the land and bonfires lit on the hilltops.

"People of all kinds and ranks, from



■ COMMEMORATION: in Wales, above left, and on the Isle of Man.

every part of the kingdom, sent congratulatory telegrams," Queen Victoria wrote in her journal, also recording how "much delighted" she was to receive a present from the government of a paper knife with a special handle set with overlapping gold coins each bearing the portrait of a British monarch. The uppermost coin bore an image of Victoria herself; the one beneath it, that of George III.

On her milestone day The Queen will be in Balmoral on her summer holidays, just as Queen Victoria was when she took the record. But it is understood that Her Majesty wants no fireworks and bands playing because as the occasion by definition involves living longer than Victoria she does not believe that the death of a relative is something to be celebrated.

One aide reportedly said the 89-year-old monarch did not see the length of her time on the throne as "some form of competition with her ancestors".

However, plans are afoot in Scotland for the occasion not to pass unmarked

and it is understood that there may be a service of thanksgiving at the church of Crathie Kirk, where the Royal Family often worship when staying at Balmoral.

It is also likely that an event may be staged at the Highland games at the The Braemar Gathering, which has

been close to the Queen's heart for more than 80 years and which will be held four days before the record day.

A spokesman for the Braemar Gathering said: "We will be marking Her Majesty's milestone and also the fact she will also become the event's longest royal patron and it is the bicentenary of the Braemar Royal Highland Society."

However, in London confusion reigns over whether to stage some sort of principal church service or special guns salute or whatever, and royalists are not happy with the apparent lack of planning.

"It is unconscionable that no one person, organisation, or the Government has given any thought to properly celebrating the most historic milestone in this nation's history, let alone honouring Her Majesty for the life long service she has given the people of this world," said Thomas Mace-Archer-Mills, the chairman of the British Monarchist Society.

"A proper show of appreciation is only appropriate."

Meanwhile, the capital waits to hear whether it should be quickly getting out the bunting.



## Managers Specials

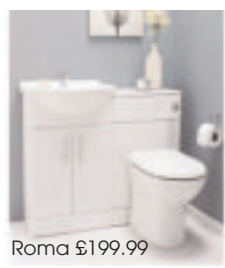
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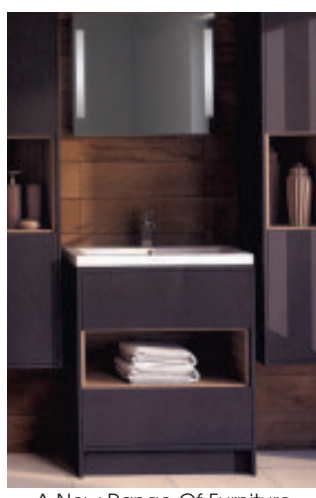
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# The 'Mountbatten factor' explored

THE debate about whether The Queen's children should be called Windsor or Mountbatten – Prince Philip's adopted name – formed the central thrust of Channel 4's controversial documentary about the Duke of Edinburgh on Thursday.

*Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King*, narrated by actress Tamsin Greig, was a tale of snobbery, scheming, tantrums and even near-treason. It suggested that The Queen's husband was partly manoeuvred into his exalted position by his ambitious uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and paints a vivid picture of Establishment animosity towards Philip, because his family were part-German.

"I'm the only man in the country not allowed to give his children his name," Philip is famously said to have complained. "I'm just a bloody amoeba."

The documentary also claimed a genuine exclusive. Prince Rainer von Hessen read from the private memoirs of his mother Sophie, Philip's sister, who was married to a Nazi SS officer, revealing the couple's friendship with Adolf Hitler.

Royal historian Christopher Wilson said: "Philip was seen as an outsider and a threat. The Establishment thought he was too

good-looking and 'not one of us'. They were beastly to him."

Key to the story is Louis Mountbatten – his British-based ancestors had changed their name from the German Battenberg during the First World War – who took Philip under his wing after his mother Alice, Louis's sister, was confined to a mental institution and his father abandoned him.

When the young future Queen and teenage Philip struck up a friendship, Mountbatten, it is argued, saw this as a potential route to power. But, according to Channel 4's documentary, the courtship wasn't plain sailing for young midshipman Philip. The Queen Mother, whose brother Fergus was killed at 26 during the Great War, referred to Philip as 'The Hun, because of his German connections,' says Philip Eade, author of the book *Young Prince Philip*.

Even the nuptials themselves, on 20 November, 1947, didn't put an end to the plotting, and Christopher Wilson claims Mountbatten's ambitions were exposed a few days after Elizabeth became Queen following the sudden death of her father King George VI in 1952.

It was claimed Mountbatten held a dinner party and an-

nounced: "The House of Mountbatten now reigns."

News of his remark reached a furious Winston Churchill – then Prime Minister – who regarded Philip as "brash". Within weeks a public announcement decreed the family name would remain Windsor.

Even so, the issue never went away. Rab Butler, who became deputy to later Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, is quoted as saying the Queen was "close to tears while discussing the issue".

In his diaries, Macmillan spoke of "the prince's almost brutal attitude to the Queen over this matter", while Lord Mountbatten's daughter Patricia told the documentary: "It caused hurt between them for quite a long time."

However, in 1960 the Queen proposed that minor royals would in future be officially called Mountbatten-Windsor – although the joint surname was in fact first used by Princess Anne when she signed the marriage register at her wedding to Captain Mark Phillips in 1973. As narrator Tamsin Greig noted in the documentary: "Lord Mountbatten, at last, had his own, small victory."



# ROYAL LONDON

Small is beautiful, as princess will one day discover

by Geoff Baker

**W**HEN Princess Charlotte is a little older, her great grandmother has a special treat to show her which will be the most exciting thing that she has ever seen.

The princess is too young to appreciate it now, but in a few years' time, around the age that she starts to play with dolls, it will fabulously blow her mind.

It's not the Crown Jewels, to a little girl it is far more fantastic that that; much more amazing than diamond tiaras or golden carriages or all The Queen's horses or anything.

It is a dolls' house, made for The Queen's own granny and described by her as "the most perfect present that anyone could receive".

Queen Mary's Dolls' House is quite probably the most exquisite "toy" in the world, a spectacular example of genius British engineering and craftsmanship which is so magically enchanting it must be seen for anyone to believe that making it was even possible.

Ninety years ago this summer the dolls' house went on display at Windsor Castle and ever since it has thrilled every princess who has ever stared at it in wide-eyed wonder.

Although it is only 5 ft high, it took a workforce of 1,500 to build it – 50 more than it took to build London's tallest building, the 1,016-ft Shard.

The dolls house was made for Queen Mary as a thank you for her hard work during the First World War, when she advised her husband King George V, supported him through ill health and led an example to the nation by instituting an austerity drive at the palace, where she rationed food, and visited wounded and dying servicemen in hospital, at the cost of great emotional strain.

"These were the years of post-war convalescence, when the largely unemployed nation needed help to stand on its feet again, in a country 'fit for heroes to live in'," writes Lucinda Lambton in her acclaimed book, *The Queen's Dolls' House*.

"In 1922 the British Empire Exhibition of Arts and Manufacturing, conceived to boost spirits and to stimulate trade, was given the go-ahead, and this tiny masterpiece of an English house, displaying the very best that the United Kingdom could offer, would be its centrepiece.

"So this remarkable creation, which could have become a mere plaything, a fantastical toy subsumed into the wealth of the Royal Collection, was to become instead a beacon of national importance. Indeed, within days of its inception it was seen as a flagship of endeavour to ease the nation's woes.

"It was Princess Marie Louise, Queen Victoria's granddaughter, who first thought 'on the impulse of the moment' of asking her friend the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens to design a dolls' house for Queen Mary, the consort of Marie Louise's first cousin King George V.

# Charlotte, just wait till you see what great granma'ma has left for you to play with...



"Lutyens created lofty royal chambers along with mezzanine levels, and ensured that every room had a window, with either casement or real sliding sashes," wrote Lucinda Lambton.

"From the outside, what initially appears to be a podium supporting the house is in fact the basement quarters. Let down rusticated stone flaps and reveal, to the north, the water tank and machinery for the lifts; to the south, the wine cellar and food stores. Most ingenious of all are the revelations in the great drawers at either end of the building. With the flaps pulled down, to the west you haul forth a fully fledged five-bay garage housing a fleet of royal limousines including a 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost; while to the east, a garden by Gertrude Jekyll – empress of garden design in her day – leaps into life. It is a creation unlike any other," said Lucinda, "an exquisite little building filled to its royal rafters with the work, in miniature, of the finest artists and artisans, craftsmen and manufacturers of early 20th-century Britain."

Princess Charlotte will have to wait a few years to fully appreciate this great treasure but visitors can see it now on display at Windsor Castle.

For more details go to [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

■ **The Queen's Dolls' House** by Lucinda Lambton is available from Royal Collection Enterprises, price £12.95

"Queen Mary was an obsessive collector of objets d'art, most particularly of 'tiny craft', and most passionately of those with a family connection, which she amassed with an acutely knowledgeable eye.

"There could be no better gift for her than a dolls' house filled with diminutive treasures. What more suitable tribute, too, for the Queen's steadfast presence throughout the Great War? With its English eccentricity, this miniature yet monumental scheme was spot-on to capture the world's imagination."

The dolls' house detail is remarkable and made possible because Lutyens employed a team

and load and can even fire – complete with a magazine of 100 miniature cartridges.

Lutyens' vision was to capture life in a royal residence in all its detail and so the library includes original works by the top literary names of the day – 200 authors, including Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy and A.A. Milne, produced original hand-written works for the library. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle even created an original Sherlock Holmes story, *How Watson Learned the Trick*, especially for the Dolls' House.

In the saloon two tiny thrones sit side by side; and there is a collection of red and green leather dispatch boxes, each embossed in gold with the royal cipher. There is even a fully operational strong room to hold the Crown Jewels.

Royal portraits include a copy of Winterhalter's 1846 painting of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children, and contemporary portraits of the young Prince of Wales, King George V and Queen Mary.

The domestic quarters and the rooms below stairs were given as much attention by Lutyens' craftsmen as the royal rooms above. In the kitchen, 2,500 tiny sections of oak were used to recreate a wood-block floor. A copper kettle made out of a King George V penny is on the stove and every detail of domestic life is included, from Lux flakes and Sunlight Soap to a tin of Coleman's mustard and a bottle of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.

In the living quarters, chamber pots can be seen under every bed, trouser presses are in the men's bedrooms and tiny newspapers are there for the servants.

## An exquisite little building

of 250 craftsmen and manufacturers, 60 artist-decorators and 700 artists.

The carpets, curtains and furnishings are all copies of the real thing in Windsor Castle, and even the light fittings are working. Not only is it fully-plumbed with hot and cold water running through minute pipes, it is also fitted with flushing toilets and tiny lavatory paper.

The house also includes a fully-stocked wine cellar filled with 1,200 thimblefuls of Champagnes, wines, spirits and beers from Berry Bros of St James's. Another quality purveyor, Alfred Dunhill, provided tiny cigarettes, cigars, pipes and tins of 'My Mixture' – a tobacco custom-made for the King.

The Royal gun makers James Purdey & Sons donated tiny working replicas of King George V's guns – which break



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## SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

BBC revisits historic meeting of Elvis and The Beatles

# When rock legends collide: but what happened next?

by Geoff Baker

YOU'D think that if you had ever met Elvis Presley, even if you were The Beatles, that you would remember every moment of the occasion, what he wore, what he said and what happened.

But it has long amused Sir Paul McCartney that on the only occasion he and the other Fabs secretly hooked up with their hero, afterwards none of them could agree on exactly what took place.

Pity then screenwriter Jeff Young, charged with dramatising the most seismic meeting in music for a BBC play to mark the 50th anniversary of the event next month.

The summit happened on the night of August 27, 1965 when The Beatles were nearing the end of another massively-successful USA tour and to celebrate, their manager Brian Epstein organised with Elvis's manager Tom Parker a get together at The King's home in Perugia Way, Beverly Hills.

"Meeting Elvis was one of the highlights of the tour," George Harrison later recalled for The Beatles' official version of their times together, *The Beatles Anthology*.

"It was funny because by the time we'd got to his house we'd forgotten where we were going. We were in a Cadillac limousine, going round and round along Mulholland, and we'd had a couple of 'cups of tea' in the back of the car. It didn't really matter where we were going.

"We were just having fun, we were all in hysterics. We pulled up at some big gates and someone said 'Oh yeah, we're going to see Elvis' and we all fell out of the car laughing, trying to pretend we weren't silly."

But John Lennon remembered: "We were all as nervous as hell."

He added: "He had pool tables. Maybe a lot of American houses are like that but it seemed amazing to us, it was like a nightclub."

In contrast, Ringo Starr recalls not a club but "a house that was very big and dark; we walked in and Elvis was sitting on a settee in front of the TV. He had all his guys around him and we said 'Hi Elvis'. He was pretty shy and we were a little shy."

"He was great," says Sir Paul. "I mean, it was Elvis! He just looked like Elvis. We were all major fans, so it was hero worship of a high degree. He said 'Hello lads, do you want a drink?'"

"We sat down and we were watching TV. He had the first remote channel switcher that any of us had ever seen," Sir Paul often recounts in his interviews. One thing that all parties can remember is that Elvis was sitting on a sofa listening to country and blues songs on his jukebox and playing the bass guitar, which of course delighted Paul.

"That was the great thing for me, that he was into the bass," he said. "So there I was, 'Well, let me show you a thing or two, El...'. Suddenly he was a mate. It was a great conversation piece for me, I could actually talk about the bass, and we sat around and just enjoyed ourselves."

Journalist Chris Hutchins, who was covering The Beatles tour and, as a



■ **ROCK 'N' ROLL RENDEZVOUS:** A new BBC drama recreates the historic moment when The Beatles, riding the crest of a wave on a sell-out American tour, met Elvis Presley. George Harrison, top, Ringo Starr, middle, and Paul McCartney, had differing views of what unfolded.

friend of both Parker and the Liverpool lads, was largely instrumental in forging the meeting, remembers some sort of jam session breaking out.

"It was Elvis who broke the ice. 'Well, if you guys are just gonna sit there and stare at me all night, I'm going to bed,' he said, before calling for guitars to be passed around," Hutchins was later reported as saying.

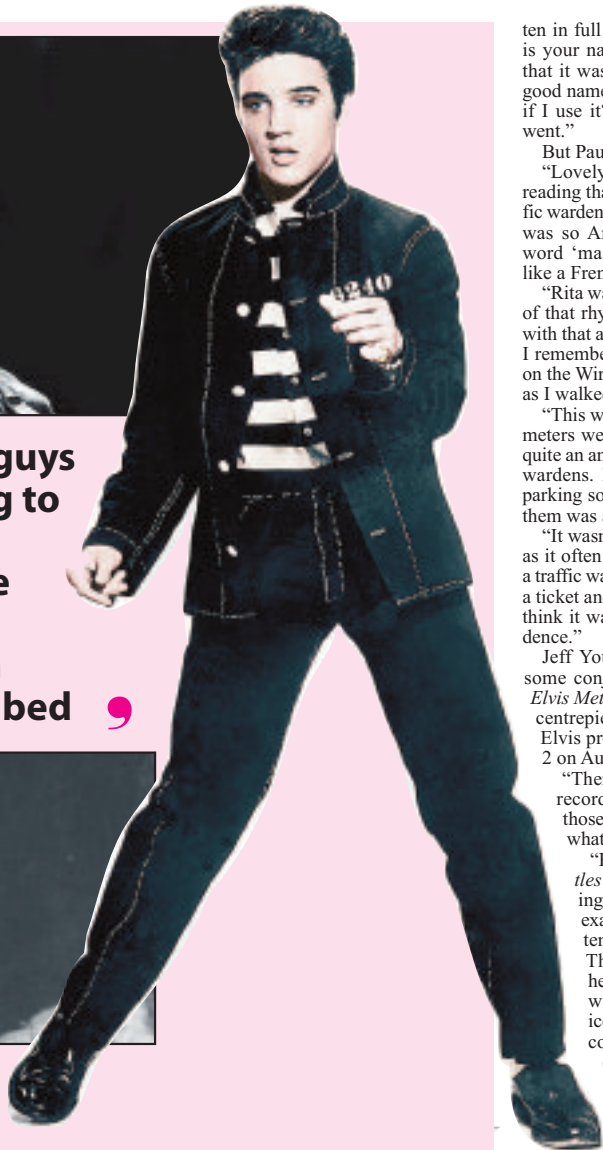
John Lennon said that Elvis had a large bass amp in the room and that The Beatles played guitars with him. "We all plugged in whatever was around and we played and sang."

Beatles mythology has long had it that not only did the King and the young pretenders to his crown jam together but that a legendary tape exists somewhere of the living room performance.

But Sir Paul has not recounted any recollection of an impromptu session being recorded, nor any thoughts on who might have the tape now.

"We played a bit of pool with a few of his mates and then Priscilla was brought in," he said. "I got this picture

❖ If you guys are going to sit there and stare at me all night I'm going to bed ❖



ten in full – Meta Davis. He said, 'Oh, is your name really Meta?' I told him that it was. He said, 'That would be a good name for a song. Would you mind if I use it?' And that was that. Off he went."

But Paul remembered it differently. "Lovely Rita was occasioned by me reading that in America they called traffic wardens 'meter maids'. I thought that was so American and also to me the word 'maid' had sexual connotations, like a French maid," he said.

"Rita was the only name I could think of that rhymed with meter, so I started with that and just fantasised on the idea. I remember going for a walk one night on the Wirral and working on the words as I walked.

"This was about the time that parking meters were coming in and people had quite an antagonistic feeling towards the wardens. I'd been nicked for a lot of parking so it was fun to imagine one of them was a bit of an easy lay."

"It wasn't based on a real person but, as it often happened, it was claimed by a traffic warden who apparently gave me a ticket and that made the newspapers. I think it was more a question of coincidence."

Jeff Young has also had to rely on some conjecture for his drama, *When Elvis Met The Beatles*, which forms the centrepiece of a week of Beatles and Elvis programming starting on Radio 2 on August 24.

"There were no cameras, no recording equipment – and only those who were there really know what happened," says the BBC.

"But *When Elvis Met The Beatles* recreates that evening, bringing alive the story when they met exactly 50 years ago, inviting listeners to be a fly on the wall. The drama puts music at the heart of their meeting. Listeners will hear how music broke the ice between the two parties, discover what songs were played on Elvis' jukebox and who sang what in a mythical jam session."

"This wasn't just the meeting of the two biggest music names in history – it

was passing of the baton from the King of Rock 'n' Roll to the upstarts from Liverpool."

Young says: "I was a big Beatles fan when I was younger, but for this project, initially, I knew very little about the Elvis and Beatles meeting. Then as I began researching the story, the strangeness of the meeting and the psychological dimensions, the dramatic opportunities became obvious."

"The larger-than-life characters involved, including Brian Epstein and Colonel Tom Parker, all set against a backdrop of corrupt American politics and the disastrous war in Vietnam, made for a strange and compelling narrative."

"The piece that has emerged is a kind of fake documentary. Elvis's life was an American Tragedy and the seeds of it are sown here in this meeting between the King and the pretenders to the throne. The Beatles were so young, bewildered and overwhelmed by their rapid rise to fame."

■ **When Elvis Met The Beatles** Radio 2 August 31, 7pm

manding to meet the rocker. But Sir Paul explained that he had never met a Father McKenzie and the figure came from his imagination.

"When I first wrote the lyrics I was blocking them out and put in 'Father McCartney' because it scanned. But we knew that wouldn't be right so John and I went through the Liverpool telephone book looking for a similar-sounding name – McCartney, McCarthy... McKenzie, that'll do," he said.

It was the same with another Beatles classic, *Lovely Rita Meter Maid*. For years following that song's release on the *Abbey Road* album, a parking warden named Meta Davis, who patrolled the St John's Wood beat, lay claim to inspiring the song.

She was reported as saying that she once booked Paul's car when it was left outside Abbey Road Studios during a recording session.

"I had to make out a ticket which, at that time, carried a 10 shilling fine. He looked at it and read my signature writ-



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# WINE & DINE

The food and  
drink page for  
West London

## Success tastes sweet

**L**IKE many chefs, the Michelin-starred Jason Atherton has war wounds from his time in the kitchen. Worst of which is the “big scar” on his leg, the scene of a skin graft “many moons” ago.

“I dropped a pan of reduced veal stock and it stuck to my feet. I was only young, it was 1999, and I got rushed to hospital,” explains Atherton, who appeared as a judge in Sky Living series *My Kitchen Rules*, alongside model-turned-chef Lorraine Pascale last year.

After six months off work, he went back to the kitchen on crutches and has since then, avoided staff changing hot pans of oil “like the plague”. But as painful as the injury was and as much as it gave him “nightmares” afterwards, the 43-year-old also missed being in the throng of the restaurant.

Born in Sheffield, Atherton’s foodie journey began after he moved to London when he was 16, and landed a job at a Michelin-starred restaurant as a pot washer. He worked his way up, eventually becoming a pastry chef, then head chef at Gordon Ramsay’s Maze, and has since set up the popular Pollen Street Social in London’s swanky Mayfair, and a string of other restaurants all over the world.

His workload shows no sign of stopping either, with a newly launched eatery in New York and his latest book, *Social Sweets*, all coming out in the space of a few months earlier this spring.

Putting out a book about desserts was a “logical step” for the chef, being as “99.9% of people have a sweet tooth and like to finish off a meal with a dessert”, he notes. Clearly Atherton is in that number.

“Even though they’re really cheesy to look at, one of my favourite things as a child was a Mr Kipling Bakewell Tart,” he explains. “I used to love having those, so being able to make a grown-up version of it is cool.”

Tempted by the sound of Atherton’s sweet treats? Here are two desserts from his new book to try at home.

### QUICK CHEESECAKE

(Serves 4-6)

#### For the raspberry compote:

250g raspberries  
50g caster sugar  
A twist of cracked black pepper from a grinder  
Juice of 1/2 lemon

#### For the cheesecake:

250g cream cheese  
90g icing sugar, sifted  
1/2 vanilla pod, split in half, seeds scraped out with a knife  
250ml double cream  
For the crumble topping:  
85g digestive biscuits  
15g unsalted butter, melted

First, prepare the raspberry compote. Tip the raspberries and sugar into a heavy-based saucepan and add the pepper. Gently heat the mixture, stirring initially, until the sugar dissolves and the raspberries start to break down. Remove from the heat and add the lemon juice. Transfer to a bowl and



■ SWEET SUCCESS: Jason Atherton.

leave to cool completely. If not using soon, cover the bowl with cling film and keep in the fridge until ready to serve. Put the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla seeds into a large mixing bowl. Beat the mixture together with a whisk until well combined. Whip the double cream to firm peaks in another bowl, then fold into the cheese mixture. If not using immediately, cover the bowl with cling film and keep in the fridge. For the crumble topping, put the digestive biscuits into a clean plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin to fine crumbs. Tip into a bowl and mix with the melted butter (you can make this a few hours ahead, but store the crumble in an airtight container). To assemble the cheesecakes, spoon the cheese mixture into individual glasses or bowls. Spoon over the raspberry compote and then the crumble topping. Serve at once.

### ENGLISH SCONES

(Makes about 14 small scones)

225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
1tbsp baking powder  
50g cold unsalted butter, diced  
50g caster sugar  
25g sultanas, soaked in a little milk or hot water to plump



■ TUCK IN: Delicious scones.



## MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Crispy fried goose egg with black beans

SERVES 2

**G**OOSE eggs are pretty big and have a slightly different texture to hens’ eggs. The white is much firmer and can take a higher heat, so can be made wonderfully crispy for dishes like this.

You could add some Asian mushrooms to this or just keep it simple. Chinese black beans can be widely found in Asian supermarkets; they don’t take much soaking to soften up and often come mixed with ginger.

#### Ingredients

2 goose eggs

Vegetable or corn oil for frying

1-2 spring onions sliced finely on the angle

A few sprigs of coriander, chopped

For the sauce

100ml chicken stock

2tsp light soy sauce

1tbsp Chinese black beans soaked in warm water for a couple hours, then rinsed off

1tsp cornflour diluted in a little water

**T**O make the sauce, bring the stock and soy to the boil and simmer for 30 seconds or so, add the drained black beans and stir in enough of the diluted cornflour to thicken. Continue simmering very gently for a minute. Remove from the heat and stir in the coriander.

Meanwhile heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan, and cook the eggs on a medium to high heat for about a minute and a half on each side until crispy. Transfer to warmed serving plates, spoon the sauce around and scatter over the spring onions and coriander.



■ TASTY DISH: Crispy fried goose egg with black beans – made to a recipe by Mark Hix.





# TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

The entertainment scene  
across London

## All change for The Phantom

**T**HERE will be major cast changes in Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash-hit musical *The Phantom of the Opera* at Her Majesty's Theatre in the West End from September 7.

John Owen-Jones returns as The Phantom, having most recently played the part in the spectacular new production of the show on tour in the UK. He has played the role more times than any other actor in the West End production's history. John has also played the role of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* in the West End, on the 25th anniversary tour and on Broadway. He was the first British actor to play the role in the West End and on Broadway. He most recently appeared as Pirelli in the English National Opera production of *Sweeney Todd*. He will play the role of The Phantom until Saturday, January 2016.

Ben Forster will play the role of The Phantom from February 1. He is probably best known for winning the ITV1 show, *Su-*



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic

perstar, Andrew Lloyd Webber's TV talent search for *Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar*. His other theatre credits include Magaldi in *Evita* at the Dominion Theatre. Ben will join The Phantom following his appearance as Buddy in *Elf The Musical*, also at the Dominion Theatre.

They are joined by Celine Schoenmaker as Christine Daaé; Nadim Naaman as Raoul, Michael Matus as Monsieur Firmin and Christopher Dickens as Monsieur André.

The show, which opened at

Her Majesty's Theatre on October 9, 1986 starred Michael Crawford as The Phantom and Sarah Brightman as Christine. It has won 70 major awards and has been seen by more than 140 million people worldwide.

The total gross is now in excess of \$6 billion at the box office – which makes its revenues higher than any film or stage play in history, including *Titanic*, *ET* and *Star Wars*. It has been seen in 34 countries and 157 cities and played in 14 different languages.

It became the longest-running show in Broadway history on January 9, 2006 when it celebrated its 7,486th performance, surpassing the previous record holder *Cats*. This coincided with the Broadway and the US national touring company celebrating an unprecedented 20,000 performances in the United States. On January 26, 2013 the Broadway production celebrated an amazing 25 years on Broadway.

In October 2011 the London production celebrated its 25th anniversary with a spectacular



staging of *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Royal Albert Hall, which was screened live in cinemas all over the world and subsequently released on DVD, and in March 2013 the show celebrated 11,000 performances in the West End.

It is currently showing in London, New York, Hamburg, Budapest, Prague and on tour in the US. It will open in Helsinki and Guangzhou in September.



■ **ENCOUNTERS:** John Owen-Jones, top right, returns as The Phantom later this summer. Ben Forster, top left, takes on the role in February. Celine Schoenmaker will play Christine.

## West End favourites' raw appeal

**THIS** year Theatre MAD (Make A Difference Trust) is to present its racy fundraising initiative, *West End Bares 2015 'Take Off'*.

Performers from some of the biggest West End shows will raise money for the UK charity which over the last 25 years has raised millions in support of the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Now in its sixth year, this annual event combines the naughtiness of burlesque along with the razzle dazzle of the West End and takes place at Café De Paris, in Coventry Street, on Sunday, September 20 at 9.30pm and midnight. The evening is based on the original concept 'Broadway Bares' by legendary director Jerry Mitchell to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Each act this year will be created around the theme "Take Off", so all numbers will have an airline theme. Tickets are available from [www.madtrust.org.uk](http://www.madtrust.org.uk)

## Your free invitation to best of open-air theatre

**THIS** summer, London's Free Open-Air Theatre Season is back, offering 40,000 free tickets for high-quality theatre within the heart of the city.

Presented at The Scoop, an outdoor amphitheatre on the south side of the River Thames near Tower Bridge, by Gods and Monsters Theatre, it explores how our ancestors regarded the morality of war through comedy and drama, with a particular focus on the role of women in warfare.

Running since 2003, this is London's only 'free to all' annual season of classical theatre. The season aims to make theatre more accessible than ever before whilst not compromising on quality. In 2014, 10 per cent of the audience at The Scoop had never been to the theatre before, with three quarters claiming price as a major inhibitor. This season aims to continue introducing new audiences – irrespective of age, education, financial circumstances, physical ability or ethnicity – while still welcoming avid theatre fans.

This year's productions include *Captain Show-Off!* This is a joyous family show which invites you to the bustling Roman town that is the home of self-proclaimed war hero Captain Show-Off. It is based on the comedies of Plautus, whose jokes and japes in-



■ **GREAT OUTDOORS:** The Scoop, near Tower Bridge.

spired modern pantomime, a hit Stephen Sondheim musical, Frankie Howerd's *Up Pompeii* and lots of our favourite sitcoms.

Families can also enjoy *Women of Troy* – adapted by Lisa Kuma from Euripides' *Trojan War Trilogy*. In some of the most powerful drama ever written, the Ancient Greek playwright Euripides spins a gripping account of the courageous women on opposing sides of the Trojan War – their sacrifices, triumphs and tragedies.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, said: "Come rain or shine, the Open Air Theatre at The Scoop has been delighting audiences since 2003, with a terrific free programme that has ranged from lively musicals to Greek classics. Long may it continue!"

Artistic director Phil Willmott said:

"This summer London theatre's liveliest family show and most passionate, poignant drama is once again free for everyone! I'm so proud to be taking the capital's award-winning free outdoor theatre festival into its 13th year with a regular attendance of over 30,000 people, statistically the most culturally diverse audience in the city and with more first-time theatre-goers than any other venue enjoying our daring repertoire."

*Gods and Monsters* is a theatre company dedicated to sharing the myths and legends of the recent and distant past which define who we are today. In the last 12 years, they have performed to over 280,000 people at The Scoop, entirely for free.

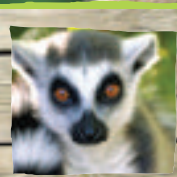


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# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ The entertainment scene across London

## london Listings

### Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7  
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. Two bachelor friends, the adorable dandy Algernon Moncrieff and the utterly reliable John Worthing JP, lead double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. The gallants must then grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions, and with the formidable Lady Bracknell. [www.importanceofearnest.com](http://www.importanceofearnest.com)

### Exhibition of work by artist Irwin Crosthwait at Gray MCA

September 17 to 22  
Unseen and rediscovered works by the former Canadian war artist, fashion illustrator and modern painter Irwin 'Bud' Crosthwait (1914 – 1981), will go on sale in an unprecedented selling exhibition by Gray MCA in London this September. The exhibition will present the most extensive selection of works by Crosthwait in 45 years, from across Europe and North America, including many works that have never before been on public view. The exhibition will feature a total of more than 60 original works ranging in price from £350-£10,000. Location: Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street St James's London SW1Y 6BN. Opening hours: Thursday 17 September – 9.30am – 8.00pm; Friday 18 September, Saturday 19 September, Sunday 20 September, Monday 21 September, Tuesday 22 September – 9.30am – 6.30pm

### Buckingham Palace summer opening

To September 27th  
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces – don't miss the chance to see it. Explore the lavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Poussin, Canaletto and Claude. Sculpture by Canova and Chantrey. Exquisite examples of Sèvres porcelain. Some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.

### Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium

To October 10th  
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features all of his greatest hits including Fly

Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way. Staged at the West End venue where the legendary entertainer made his 1950 British singing debut, Sinatra: The Man and His Music combines rare and original master recordings with cutting edge technology and never before seen performance footage to celebrate Sinatra's hugely successful music career. Featuring a 24-piece orchestra and a company of 20 dancers, the show takes audiences from Sinatra's formative years to his later life.

### London Mela

Sunday September 6  
The London Mela, Europe's largest outdoor South Asian festival, returns to Gunnersbury Park, Ealing, with a spectacular line-up of live music, dance, visual arts and food from South Asia. Over 70,000 people enjoyed last year's creative triumph and this year the festival is set to be even bigger and better than ever, with Bollywood, urban and classical music, outdoor arts, dance, fashion, sports, a children's area, Tastes of Asia, the London Mela Bazaar, a giant funfair and a spectacular firework finale!

### Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain Part 3 at the Garrick Theatre

To September 5  
We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! Will King John be a martyr for the Magna Carta? Party with the Puritans and light up your life with the great fire of London! Clap along with crazy King Charles! Will you see eye to eye with Admiral Nelson? Does the Duke of Wellington get the boot? Vomit with the vile Victorians and make a great escape from the First World War! Starring Neal Foster and Anthony Spargo, it's history with the nasty bits left in! Tickets from £8.75

### Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre

To October 31  
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015. As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state. The Barbican has sold its current allocation of advance tickets. However, small numbers of tickets may be returned or released for advance sale online. Visit [hamlet-barbican.com](http://hamlet-barbican.com) for more details. There are also 30 £10 tickets available as day-seats for sale each day in person. Up to two tickets per person, sold at the advance ticket desk from 10.30am; the Barbican Centre will open from 9am. Returned and late-release tickets may occasionally become available at the last minute on the day of the performance.

## Kidman returns to capital for premiere

THE Michael Grandage Company has announced the full company for the UK premiere of Anna Ziegler's Photograph 51.

Nicole Kidman, pictured, who leads the cast as Rosalind Franklin, is joined by Will Attenborough (James Watson), Edward Bennett (Francis Crick), Stephen Campbell Moore (Maurice Wilkins), Patrick Kennedy (Don Caspar) and Joshua Silver (Ray Gosling).

The company, which returns to the West End following a previously acclaimed season at the Noel Coward Theatre, is well known for being committed to promoting accessible ticket prices. They are offering over 20,000 tickets at £10 for the play, which looks at the woman who cracked

DNA and asks what is sacrificed in the pursuit of science, love and a place in history.

Kidman makes her much anticipated return to the London stage in the role of Franklin, the woman who discovered the secret to Life, in the UK premiere of Anna Ziegler's award-winning play. The production reunites Kidman and Grandage following their recent collaboration on the forthcoming feature film Genius.

Photograph 51 will start previews on September 5 for a limited run at the Noel Coward Theatre and in addition, the company will stage access performances – with both captioned and audio described performances.



■ LONDON RETURN: Nicole Kidman has the lead role in Photograph 51.

## All Greek at the Almeida

THE Almeida Greeks Festival is now under way. Throughout the summer an eclectic mix of Ancient Greek-inspired performances, events, talks and readings is taking place at the Almeida and beyond to compliment the theatre's main stage productions of *Oresteia*, *Bakkhai* and *Medea*.

Festival highlights for August, September and October include three special one-off music performances. Trailblazing female ensemble Gaggle bring their contemporary retelling of Aristophanes' classic comedy *Lysistrata* to the Almeida, with Charlotte Church amongst the cast. *Bakkhai* composer Orlando Gough curates an eclectic day of musical *Dionysia* with music from across Europe. The Early Opera Company are joined by Ciara Hendrick as they perform Bernier's cantata *Médée* and excerpts from Charpentier's opera of the same name.

Gaggle bring their new music theatre version of *Lysistrata*, written and directed by Deborah Coughlin, to the festival for two late nights of raucous after-hours revelry. Church takes an acting

role alongside Scarlett Lassooff, Katy Menczer, Jamie-Rose Monk, Roberta Morris and Lauren La Rocque. Music will be performed by a chorus made up from Gaggle's critically acclaimed all-girl group.

Aristophanes' biting comedy is reimagined against a backdrop of contemporary political struggle as Gaggle bring to vivid new life the story of a gang of vigilante women committed to changing the world. Injected with new and existing music from Gaggle, this timely new play will be performed on the Almeida's main stage after *Bakkhai*.

All-female ensemble Gaggle were named as one of NME's Future 50 most innovative groups and have gone on to create boundary-breaking works across Europe's festivals, on radio, in galleries and online.

In the spirit of *Dionysos*, *Bakkhai* composer Orlando Gough curates an eclectic day of musical *Dionysia* at the Almeida.

Highlights include wild urban folk music by Çiğdem Aslan, rising star of the Greek Rebetiko scene; an improvised perform-

ance by musical innovators Peter Wiegold, Martin Butler and classical jazz band Notes Inégales; traditional folk music and dance from southern Italy performed by London's first Tarantella and Pizzica ensemble Amaraterra – and a bespoke piece created with Orlando Gough and five members of the *Bakkhai* chorus. The day will be contextualised with talks from Orlando on the tension between Dionysus and Apollo in music, and an exploration of ecstatic religions and their music – taking inspiration from Voodoo, Qawwali and Gnaoua traditions.

Inspired by the Almeida's upcoming production of *Medea*, Olivier-Award nominated Early Opera and Christian Curnyn will be joined by mezzo soprano Ciara Hendrick to perform Bernier's cantata *Médée*.

Rachel Cusk's new version of *Medea*, directed by Rupert Goold, runs at the Almeida from September 25. Kate Fleetwood will make her Almeida debut in the title role.

For the full festival line-up please see the website [www.almeida.co.uk/greeks](http://www.almeida.co.uk/greeks)

## National favourites to star in black comedy

TWO of the UK's best-loved stars of stage and screen will perform together for the first time when Tom Conti and Gwen Taylor take to the stage in the satirical comedy *Before The Party*.

Premiering at the Theatre Royal Windsor on September 2 ahead of a short run at six theatres, Conti will also be directing this new production of writer Rodney Ackland's black comedy, having first directed it in 1980 at the Apollo Theatre in London, when it starred Jane Asher and the late Michael Gough.

Ackland adapted the play from a short story by Somerset Maugham, which tells the story of a family attempting to return to normal in the wake of the Second World War. With daughter Laura returned from Africa, widowed but not alone, they prepare for the latest social gathering. Amidst the never-ending whirl of hats and dresses and below-stairs skirmishes, Laura reveals a



■ FAVOURITES: Tom Conti and Gwen Taylor.

shocking secret that threatens to ruin more than one party on the climb to social success.

Conti is one of the most respected and celebrated actors of his generation. Unforgettable as the leading man in Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence and Shirley Valentine, he has also appeared as myriad characters on screen and stage. He was recently voted Most Popular Actor in the West End alongside Dame Judi Dench.



Gwen Taylor is best known in recent years for her role as Anne Foster, mother of the villainous Frank Foster in Coronation Street, but she is also much loved for starring in the ITV sitcoms *Duty Free*, *A Bit of a Do* with David Jason – for which she was nominated for a Best Actress TV Bafta – and as the lead character in *Barbara*.

For more details visit the Theatre Royal Windsor official website at this address: [theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk](http://theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk)

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# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ The entertainment scene across London

## I love this magnificent Seven

**Seven Brides For Seven Brothers** Regent's Park Open Air Theatre \*\*\*\*\*

**A**S a lifelong musical fan, I grew up watching all of the old MGM films.

Howard Keel played the strapping lead in so many, including the 1954 version of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

One of things I remember most about the film, apart from Keel's glowing strawberry hair and the abundance of technicolor gingham, was the fantastic score and invigorating dancing. The music by Gene De Paul has the same feel as other musicals of the era but with much more complex and intricate melodies, which make for rhythmically challenging and yet fast flowing euphonies.

With big numbers like *Bless Yore Beautiful Hide*, *Wonderful Wonderful Day* and *Spring, Spring*, *Spring* to look forward to, I had already annoyed many Thursday evening commuters with my insatiable, excitable whistling in anticipation.

On arrival at the beautiful Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park, I marvelled at the setting. With a timber frame set surrounded by trees it is a real oasis from the surrounding hustle and bustle of central London.

The story follows Adam, played by Alex Gaumond, the eldest of, you guessed it, seven brothers who decides he must have a wife to help keep the homestead. After a marry-at-first-sight-style courtship, Milly, played by Laura Pitt-Pulford, is swept off her feet and agrees to nuptials with the manly woodsman. She leaves behind the small town to start an idyllic life in the hills with her new spouse, but finds she has been somewhat duped on arrival when she realises it is seven men she will have to nurture.

In the fantastic *Goin' Co'lin'* Milly acts as zookeeper to the neanderthal boys and inducts them into the world of courtship. They change into sparkly clean-cut Romeos during the song in which my camp and kitsch radar went



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic

into overload, with the transformed lads reappearing in a haze of tight trousers and gazelle-style leaping.

Pitt-Pulford's Milly is a joy. Feisty and strong, yet sensitive with boundless charm. The chemistry with Gaumond is electric and the pair really cut a dash. Gaumond plays the masculine and moody Adam with a wonderful, resonating baritone voice, and is truly reminiscent of the matinee idols of a bygone era.

Although at times the sky looked grey the action on stage

was anything but, with glorious gingham girls all colour co-ordinated with their beau so even the least observant couldn't get the pairings mixed up in a wonderfully comforting and traditional manner.

There are some themes which are a little dated, most obviously the *A Woman Ought to Know her Place* sequence, but it never felt old and under Rachel Kavanaugh's direction, songs like *We Gotta Make it Through the Winter* take on a very fresh and cheeky new nuance. I found a whole new meaning to the lyric "cupid's cramp".

This is a high tempo and energetic proper musical, not trying to be anything else, just indulging everything I love about the genre. A *Wonderful, Wonderful* show.



■ **ICONIC ROLE:** Alex Gaumond as Adam and the brothers, left, main picture. Top right: Laura Pitt-Pulford as Milly and the brothers. Middle: Laura and the brides. Above: Laura shows the brothers how it's done. Photos Helen Maybanks

## Brydon enterprise a class act

**TICKETS** have just gone on sale for *Future Conditional*, Matthew Warchus' first production as artistic director of The Old Vic.

Half of all seats will be priced at just £10 thanks to Pricewaterhouse Coopers, who in partnership with the Old Vic will offer the cut price seats for the first five previews of the play, which opens on September 1 and runs until October 3.

*Future Conditional* is billed as a bracingly topical and boisterously funny new play directed by Warchus and featuring Rob Brydon, supported by 23 young performers.



It tackles the conundrum of British schooling through a myriad of characters, including parents, teachers, and Alia, a prodigiously clever young Pakistani refugee and the newest member of

Britain's Education Research Board.

Writer Tamsin Oglesby said: "Matthew Warchus and I have been working on this play for a few years now and I honestly couldn't be more thrilled that it's found its home here and at this point in the new season."

"Theatre, like good education, should not be the preserve of the few. It is essential, crucial, vital, that theatre is accessible for everybody and the PwC £10 preview tickets help to achieve this."

■ Visit the Old Vic's official website for more details. [www.oldvictheatre.com](http://www.oldvictheatre.com)

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**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

*sport*

# Versatile Perch is the right fit

**J**AMES Perch became QPR's latest summer signing last week when he joined the new-look west Londoners from relegated Wigan Athletic for an undisclosed fee.

Perch, 29, has signed a three-year deal and is expected to play mainly as a right-back.

He was voted player-of-the-season in each of his two years with Wigan, who dropped into League One last May.

Perch told [qpr.co.uk](http://qpr.co.uk): "Les (Ferdinand) and the gaffer sold the club to me brilliantly. They showed a great desire to bring me here, and that helped make up my mind.

## Easy decision

"I know players who have played here before and they spoke about the club in good terms, so it was an easy decision for me," said Perch, who joined Wigan from Newcastle United two years ago in a £700,000 deal.

He added: "I've played in the Championship for quite a few years now and I know what to expect.

"It's a tough division. It's Saturday-Tuesday a lot of the time, there are no easy games, but we'll front up the challenge head-on and compete as best we can.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of getting into the side and

proving my worth at QPR."

R's head coach Chris Ramsey pinpointed Perch's versatility as a key factor in bringing him to Loftus Road: "James is a proven Championship performer, with great versatility across a number of positions.

"He can cover both full-back positions, centre-half and holding midfield, so he'll be a real asset for us. He'll add experience to a relatively young squad, so we're delighted he's put pen to paper."

**■ PERCH played the full 90 minutes on Sunday, as QPR drew 1-1 with Atalanta at Loftus Road in their last pre-season fixture before the serious stuff begins with this Saturday's Championship opener away to Charlton.**

Substitute Jay Emmanuel-Thomas netted soon after his arrival in the second half, to equalise Jasmin Kurtic's earlier strike for the Italian side.

Rangers lined up in a 4-2-3-1 formation from the kick-off, with Rob Green in goal. Perch, new captain Nedum Onuoha, Clint Hill and



**LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW**  
With Tony McDonald



**■ JAMES Perch on his Loftus Road debut in Sunday's draw against Atalanta** Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Cole Kpekawa made up QPR's defence.

In midfield, Massimo Luongo and Ale Faurin were deployed just in front of the back four. Matt Phillips, Tjaronn Chery and Ben Gladwin took up more advanced roles, with Sebastian Polter leading the line in attack.

Charlie Austin, Leroy Fer and Jamie Mackie, among others, missed out owing to minor injuries. With much speculation surrounding his immediate future, the £15m-rated Austin was

always unlikely to play any part in Sunday's friendly.

With West Ham now expecting to be without their injured striker Enner Valencia until the Christmas period, a move from the Hammers to bring Austin across London could yet materialise.

QPR slightly eased their wage bill again last week by releasing central defender Steven Caulker on a season-long loan deal to Premier League Southampton.

## Rugby club's six appeal

**■ HAMMERSMITH & Fulham RFC are offering props discounts to get off the sofa and onto the pitch in a bid to field six teams for the first time in the club's history.**

With the season kicking off on August 23, when Hammers will try to win the Middlesex Cup for the second year running against the Civil Service, the west London club has launched a recruitment campaign for the front row.

The club is offering all props and hooker half-price kit if they can last the distance. Players who manage to tempt their rounder friends down to Hurlingham Park for pre-season training could also be in line for a discount.

The club, whose First XV play in London 2 NW, has offered the same deal to its current players who are keen to move into the front row.

Club captain Andrew Rogan, who made the switch from blind side to prop last season, said: "We've already had lots of new faces at the club in the last couple of weeks, which has been great to see. Now we're trying to get a few of the heavier guys to get out on the paddock, too.

"We're aiming to field six men's teams this season for the first time in the club's history and to do that we need more front row players. Anyone soggy around the midriff and ready to get in amongst it is



**■ MARK Blyth is playing his 14th season at prop for Hammersmith & Fulham's First XV**

most welcome!"

Sessions for men and women run every Tuesday and Wednesday from 7.15pm at Hurlingham Park.

For more information visit the club's website at [www.fulhamrugby.co.uk](http://www.fulhamrugby.co.uk).

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

**Saturday, August 8**  
CHELSEA v Swansea City, 5.30 (live on Sky)  
Cardiff City v FULHAM, 12.00  
Charlton Athletic v QPR, 3.00  
**Tuesday, August 11**  
Wycombe Wanderers v FULHAM (Capital One Cup 1R), 7.45  
Yeovil Town v QPR (Capital One Cup 1R), 7.45

**■ SURREY** have put their T20 failings behind them by making a flying start to the Royal London One-Day Cup, winning all of their first four completed matches in the 50 over competition to lead Group A.

The sequence began with a 220-run thrashing of Northamptonshire at The Kia Oval. Jason Roy led the way with a rapid score of 108 in just 103 minutes, off 79 balls, including 15 fours and one maximum hit.

Fellow opener Steve Davies just missed out on his century, being caught by White off the bowling of Azharullah after reaching 99 in 99 balls.

Northants capitulated in response, slumping to 27 for 5 in the 10th over and were all out for 123 less than halfway through their scheduled 50-over innings.

Sam Curran did most damage for Surrey with the ball by taking 4-32 in his seven overs.

Two days later Surrey had to work much harder for victory at home by just six runs in a tight clash against Yorkshire. This time their most prominent performer was Zafar Ansari, who produced a match-winning 66 runs with the bat as the home side reached 265 for 8 by the close of their innings.

With ousted England batsman Gary Ballance leading their reply with 77, Yorkshire scored 259 for 7. Ansari was Surrey's best bowler with figures of 3-58 from his 10 overs.

## Agonisingly close

**Durham** were next to suffer. Davies, who again went agonisingly close to a century when he was dismissed on 98, steered Surrey to 271 for 7.

James Burke, with 3-34 off six overs, was the pick of the Surrey bowlers in ensuring the home side were all out for 222 half-way through the 47th over.

Surrey completed a quartet of ODC wins in six days with a 77-run defeat of Derbyshire at Guildford on Sunday. This time there was no denying Steve Davies his well-earned ton. He amassed 115, while Kumar Sangakkara (109) also sped to three figures in a second wicket partnership worth 204.

In glorious sunshine, Surrey's 326 for 6 always looked a tall order for the visitors, who were bowled out for 249 in the 42nd over, despite Durston (129) scoring more than half of his team's total.

It was not all about the batsman, however. Burke again impressed with bowling figures of 5-28 in 6.5 overs.

Surrey take a break from ODC action from tomorrow (Fri), when they resume their LV= Championship Div 2 promotion bid against Essex at Colchester.



## Surrey off to One-Day flier



**■ JAMES Burke impressed with the ball for Surrey** Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

**■ MIDDLESEX** delight at winning their first One-Day Cup match of the summer against Kent turned to dismay just 24 hours later, when they were ripped apart by Hampshire.

After opening their ODC account with a two-wicket defeat by Lancashire at Blackpool, Middlesex returned south to register an 87-run victory against Kent at Radlett.

Their standout batsman was Nick Gubbins, whose 65 runs in his side's total of 260 for 9 included four sixes.

Kent were swept aside in just 41.3 overs, having scraped to a paltry 173 all out.

On Friday, though, Middlesex fared even worse against Hants at Southampton. After winning the toss and electing to bat, the visitors could only muster a meagre 117 all out in 32.4 overs.

Only James Harris, with 34 runs, and Ollie Rayner (24) brought a tinge of respectability to proceedings.

But Hampshire still coasted to a 10-wicket victory with 27 overs to spare.

After fairly short trips to Sussex (Mon) and Essex (Wed) this week, Middlesex continue their quest for ODC points today (Thurs, 10.30am), when Nottinghamshire visit Lord's.

The next day they resume their LV= Championship campaign at the Home of Cricket against Sussex from 11.00.

# Chelsea Ladies lift FA Cup

**■ CHELSEA FC Ladies** won the club's first domestic trophy of the season when they beat Notts County 1-0 in the Women's FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday.

South Korean Ji So-Yun scored in the 37th minute, toe-poking the ball home from close-range.

John Terry, who has supported the girls' side since their inception, attending matches and even financially helping with expenses in the past, was happy with the win.

He said: "I was delighted for them. Obviously they teed it up for us to come and do the double.

"They have worked so hard and had a huge disappointment last season (missing out on



**■ LADIES first: Chelsea Women's Super League players Drew Spence, Hannah Blundell, Ji So-Yun and Eniola Aluko with the Women's FA Cup after victory against Notts County at Wembley on Saturday** Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

the title on the final day). I spoke to a few of the girls and told them they may not realise it then but it will all go well in the future.

"They go down in history as the first ladies team to win silverware

for the football club.

"I have supported them for years. Even before I had my little girl (Summer). I am very supportive of them. They work very hard. It's difficult for them as well.

"It's a great opportunity for them and it gives hopes and dreams to young girls like mine and others at grass roots level, that they too can succeed."

**Paul Lagan**



# SPORT

Thursday, August 6th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

## Fired up by Arsenal loss

**C**HELSEA skipper John Terry is using the bitter experience of losing the Community Shield to Arsenal as a wake-up call . . . a timely reminder that defending their Premier League title is going to be hard and they need to get serious quickly.

"It was disappointing to lose, of course," he said. "It is the first trophy we could win this season but it's gone now, we have to move on. We have the Premier League to concentrate on now, so we will go again. We have to take the positives from it – we got another 90 minutes under our belts and we are preparing ourselves for the season.

"It hurts. When you see them Arsenal players walk up (to collect the trophy), no matter if it's a friendly or the Community Shield, it's a trophy at the end of the day. It's horrible, it's not nice. At the same time, it could be a blessing in disguise for us, a wake-up call.

"We have experience in the squad, we have the character. It's going to be even tougher this year.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**  
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

We go again and prepare ourselves for Swansea," he added, referring to Blues' first Premier League opponents of the season at The Bridge on Saturday evening.

Before Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Wembley, Chelsea had not won any of their four pre-season matches in 90 minutes, while double daily training sessions have been the routine. So was tiredness a factor against the Gunners? Terry doesn't think so.

### Finding their feet

"No, if anything, I thought we were on top. I think these games are always a bit slow anyway, the players are still finding their feet and fitness. It served a good purpose for that but, obviously, I'm disappointed we didn't win."

What was more disappointing, defeat in the Community Shield or losing a 13-match unbeaten

record against their strongest London rivals?

"I think losing is just horrible in all aspects," he said.

It was suggested to Terry that he hates losing whether it's a game of tiddlywinks, tennis or anything else.

His reply was typical: "Yes, it's horrible, whether it's against my kids or anyone else. That's the mentality I was brought up on, the same way a manager thinks on a daily basis. That's what he wants and demands from his players as well.

"It was a different atmosphere in the dressing room afterwards. We haven't lost many at Wembley. With that in mind, it's maybe the boost we needed – and we go again for the season."

Ex-Blue Petr Cech, who left Stamford Bridge for The Emirates a few weeks ago, coped comfortably with what little he had to do against his former club.

"It was typical from Pete," said the Chelsea skipper. "He was great, as always. I think we have to get over the fact he's left now. He's moved on to a very good side. We have enough in our squad to concentrate on ourselves."



■ HURT etched on the face of John Terry as Chelsea collect their losers' medals Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



## This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Mystery surrounded the non-appearance of last season's top scorer Diego Costa, who watched the Community Shield from the sidelines. Did Terry know the reason?

"Personally, no – you will have to ask the manager," he suggested. "He's looked good in training and everything, so whether it was just a precaution, I don't know.

"He's a top player, so he's going to be missed. But it was a chance for Loic Remy to stamp his authority on the side and for Radamel Falcao to come on in the second half. It's down to those boys to fight for their place. We have three great strikers and they will all be fighting."

Jose Mourinho suggested he had no idea why Costa was not playing. The Chelsea manager said: "I don't know (on Costa). You think I'm lying but I'm not lying. Two days ago he was ready to play, he trained normal. On Saturday he trained normally. The next time you ask me I prefer not to answer. If on Friday you ask me 'does he play against Swansea?', I don't answer, because maybe yes, maybe no. I prefer not to answer. Let's see."

Mourinho was miffed at the defeat. He forensically criticised Arsene Wenger's tactics while at the same time making it sound like a back-handed compliment.

"Normally you like to say that a team that is defensive and defends very well doesn't deserve to win," he said. "I have to say that the best team lost. And the defensive team won.

"But I also have my opinion and that is a team that defends very well, a team that leaves their philosophy in the dressing room, can change their attitude and their philosophy, accumulate 10 players behind the ball all the time, play all the second half with nine players in front of the box. This is football, this is very good tactical organisation. In that perspective, they scored one goal (by Oxlade-Chamberlain in the 24th minute), they deserved to win."

He went on: "One team (Arsenal) played counter-attack football and well. Another team (Chelsea) had initiative, played well, but without the sharpness you need to be more aggressive. The team created chances and, tactically, tried everything and every possible thing. It was not happy, it didn't equalise and didn't get the game into a normal level. That's my opinion.

"If you want to be pragmatic like I normally am, I say in a simple way – they scored, they didn't concede. Well done. Congratulations."

On the thorny subject of John Stones, who Chelsea are trying to sign from Everton, with an improved £30m offer now on the table, Mourinho was less forthcoming in his response.

"I've no idea," was his reply to suggestions that Chelsea were about to sign Stones. "Of course I would like but I've no idea."

■ CHELSEA LADIES CUP GLORY – PAGE 27



## Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

## Symons starts full of hope

**F**ULHAM kick-off their Championship campaign at Cardiff City on Saturday lunch-time, with manager Kit Symons all smiles, hope and optimism.

"We're all setting out for promotion, that's what the goal is and we're all motivated to achieve," he said.

In all honesty, what else would you expect the manager to say on the eve of a new season? With two automatic promotion places and four play-off spots up for grabs, he can't exactly say he is aiming for mid-table mediocrity, which is the level Fulham were at last season.

Symons will hope that his projections don't come back to haunt him and that Whites can get off to a good start to their second consecutive season in the Championship.

He inherited a mess when he was brought in last September to

succeed Felix Magath. But with a full pre-season behind him and several new signings coming in, he knows that this time his neck is on the line and he will be judged accordingly.

Symons suggested the club were still looking to strengthen with possibly two more signings before the transfer window closes.

According to the bookies, Fulham are rated no better than ninth favourites to win the second tier, where Derby County and Middlesbrough are 6-1 ante-post joint-favourites. Whites are a best-priced 25-1 to win the Championship, or 8-1 to gain promotion.

You can get odds of 16-1 against Fulham's Ross McCormack – last season's top scorer with 17 goals – topping the Championship scoring charts in 2015-16. The Scot was the league's leading scorer while with Leeds United in 2013-14.



■ NEW signing Ben Pringle put Fulham ahead against Palace.

■ WHITES completed their pre-season campaign with a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace in front of 10,800 at sunlit Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Ben Pringle, one of six summer signings who started the game, put Whites ahead in the seventh minute with a low, left-footed shot that crept in at the keeper's near post, before Souare equalised with a far-post header following a corner in the second half.

Pringle said: "Obviously I was delighted to get the goal but the main thing for me was starting the game and that's what I was happy with – the goal was a bonus.

"We played some good stuff at times and look solid and organised. We can improve in certain areas and I'm sure we will do.

"The way Palace set up was a good test for us. We needed it and coped well."